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THE TIMES

Bernard Levin on
the tragedy of
Vietnam, page 14

Mr Sadat goes into isolation to consider his next moves

President Sadat cancelled all appointments and went into seclusion as the Israeli-Egyptian negotiators prepared to face each other in Jerusalem today in an atmosphere heavy with mistrust. The Egyptian leader's sudden withdrawal recalled similar retreats prior to important decision such as the 1973 thrust across the Suez Canal and the present peace initiative.

Mood of mistrust at Jerusalem talks

Cairo, Jan 16.—President Sadat went into sudden seclusion today to assess the souring Middle East peace efforts. Two days after the Egyptian leader suggested that a deadlock in the negotiations raised the possibility of his resignation—or of fresh fighting—a government spokesman issued a brief statement saying he had cancelled all appointments for 10 days and would refuse to see anybody during this period.

The President will study various aspects of the Middle East problem, the spokesman said. There are three items on the agenda as it has been finally agreed. The first calls for a declaration of principles that would govern the negotiation of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. Both Israel and Egypt have agreed on that wording; but there are differences on the second item.

The Israeli version refers to "guidelines" for negotiations relating to the issues of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, while the Egyptian version uses the term "West Bank and Gaza". To the satisfaction of the Israelis there is no specific mention of Palestinians. The third item refers to the elements of a peace treaty to be negotiated between Israel and its neighbours in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Resolution 242.

Mr Dayan, who had a working lunch today with Mr Kamal, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, has expressed satisfaction with the agenda, saying it is in line with Israel's position. He maintained that Israel had not made any big concessions.

He admitted it was only after the United States had made several proposals that agreement on the agenda was reached, but denied the generally accepted impression that there was any pressure on Israel.

It was at his suggestion, he said, that Mr Vance postponed his arrival until the agenda issue was settled. The Foreign Minister said he saw three problems. They were mainly military issues, and the question of Israeli settlements as well as the content of the peace treaty.

Mr Dayan said Egypt had proposed five clauses for discussion—an end to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, a principle of mutual non-aggression, a just settlement for the Palestinians on the basis of self-determination, and an end to the state of belligerence.

Hussein criticised: In a live interview from Amman on French television, King Hussein of Jordan said: "We are at an extremely dangerous and crucial moment in the very brave and courageous initiative of President Sadat. This initiative has not been responded to by the Government and Prime Minister of Israel." The decisive phase was about to commence, he thought.

Carter letter: After talks with Mr Vance for 90 minutes today, Mr Begin said: "Thank God, everything is all right and positive." He described a letter from Mr Carter given to him by Mr Vance as "one of the most heartwarming messages I got from the President."—UPI

US pressure, page 6



Homeless: an evicted woman leaves her flattened shanty near Cape Town yesterday.

Police jeer as shanties are bulldozed

From Our Correspondent

Johannesburg, Jan 16.—Young white policemen cheered "Unibell is burning" as a huge bulldozer today began tearing apart the shanty-towns of 10,000 Africans a few miles from Cape Town. The chant stopped almost as soon as it began when a crowd of angry Africans started to menace the policemen. Tonight at the Unibell camp on the desolate Cape Flats the mood

was still tense and angry as homeless Africans, their belongings piled in plastic bags, huddled at the camp's edge. Tomorrow the yellow bulldozer will be back to continue the demolition. Today about 100 corrugated iron, timber and cardboard shacks were demolished. About 20 others were set alight by irate Africans.

Cape Town administration officials warned the Unibell squatters last week that demolition was imminent but gave no date. The job began without warning. Most of the shanties are from the Xhosa tribe and are officially citizens of Transkei, South Africa's "independent" bantustan. The Transkei Government through Professor Maheni Njisan, its Ambassador in

British Steel expects to lose £520m, Mr Varley discloses

By Peter Hill and Michael Hatfield

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, started the Commons yesterday by telling MPs that British Steel expects to lose £520m in its present financial year. That is equivalent to a loss of £2,500 for every person it employs.

Even that projection is not regarded as firm, according to Mr Varley, for in his statement to the Commons he noted that the estimate contained a remaining contingency provision of £50m.

Even assuming that the all-out British Steel Corporation could contain its losses and had no need to use the contingency fund, the resulting £470m loss would represent a loss of £2,500 for each of the corporation's 208,000 employees, or £3,467 for each manual worker.

Mr Varley's statement to Parliament comes after controversy in the wake of the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries' investigation into the British Steel Corporation's affairs and disclosures in *The Times* at the weekend that the corporation had submitted details of estimated losses to ministers as long ago as last April.

The select committee, in its report, criticized the corporation's forecasting abilities and sought a ruling from the Speaker of the House to have the corporation's accounts audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General. The Secretary of State and Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman, made available for its scrutiny.

Mr Varley volunteered yesterday to attend another meeting of the select committee but the offer may not be as simple as it seems.

Labour backbench members of the committee are annoyed by the belligerent attitude of Mr Varley in the Commons and may head back the invitation. The committee is to meet this afternoon to decide its next move. Some members believe it should stick to its guns and demand production of the documents before asking Mr Varley to face further questioning.

At a press conference yesterday, Mr Varley was asked what view he took of Sir Charles's position at the BSC. He said: "I must say that I have full confidence in Sir Charles Villiers and in his

dealings with the select committee." Asked whether there was any question of Sir Charles being dismissed or asked to resign, he replied: "I have complete confidence in Sir Charles Villiers."

It seems that the scale of the expected loss for the financial year ending in March, remains as uncertain as ever.

Mr Varley said in his Commons statement: "I would emphasize that, even at this stage in the financial year the estimate is subject to considerable uncertainties as regards, for example, sales, realized prices and industrial relations in the steel industry and elsewhere."

In its fiscal annual operating plan submitted to the Department of Industry last April, the BSC projected a loss of £530m. Later, in a report submitted to the BSC board meeting on July 29 by Mr Robert Schriber, its chief executive, it projected a loss of £466m. Sir Charles has since said that those were projections contained in working documents and were regarded as unacceptable and not firm forecasts. Ironically, however, the steel market is stabilized and further corrective action is taken, the eventual outcome might be close to the July projection.

Mr Varley told MPs yesterday that as no time had been called because the committee failed to raise a quorum. He was later asked to reply to written questions although one of them referred to the BSC's finances. He said the normal monitoring arrangements and procedures of the Department of Industry on the BSC had been fully met.

"Assuming we had taken action on the basis of financial information coming into the Department of Industry in the summer, it would have been regarded as premature," he added that precipitate action in closing plants with consequent redundancies would have led to chaos in the BSC and widespread industrial action.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Gin and tonic research reveals pub lunch peril

By Hugh Clayton

Experiments with gin and tonic at Surrey University have shown that it is not necessary to drink heavily to acquire a hangover. It does, however, as readily by drinking a little and eating plenty of starchy, sweet food.

The dissection and analysis of the public house lunch, led at Surrey by Professor Vincent Marks, was reported yesterday in the latest bulletin of the British Nutrition Foundation.

Office workers whose afternoons degenerate into gloom and headaches after long sessions at crowded bars probably think they are suffering from hangovers. What they really have, in the words of the foundation, is a "nutritionally self-induced type of cerebral malfunction."

That complicated sounding condition can be induced through a disease with the alarming name of hypoglycaemia. The conditions can be demonstrated with equal ease in everyday or laboratory conditions by inflicting several alcoholic drinks on an empty stomach.

The resulting symptoms, easily recognizable as hurried executives, are listed in the foundation's bulletin as "a sense of undue fatigue, lack of concentration, an increasing tendency to errors of judgment, headache, nervous trembling and a feeling of anxiety."

Controlled research showed conclusively that such symptoms were liable to develop after about half-past-four after a heavy public house lunch. The achievement of Professor Marks and his team of volunteers is to show that the interaction of alcohol in gin and tonic and biscuits can produce the same result in a meal of a few drinks and plenty of food.

Professor Marks began his work with pure solutions of glucose. Moderate levels of alcohol activated the insulin-releasing properties of the glucose so that the proportion of sugar in the blood was sharply reduced.

Scientific opinion was sceptical of results produced in conditions so remote from everyday reality. Professor Marks therefore moved on to gin. He found that gin and tonic produced a lower glucose level in the blood than gin and a slimmer's drink with the sugar of the tonic replaced by an artificial sweetener.

"We shall obviously be going on to beer," Professor Marks said. He added that he had no shortage of volunteers. A mixture of alcohol and carbohydrate foods like refined flour can have the same effect. Professor Marks believes that a little beer and several rolls will prove to have the same painful hypoglycaemic properties.

The foundation called it "a particularly malign form of reactive hypoglycaemia." Miss Elizabeth Morse, the organization's scientific officer, said it could be avoided by eating high-protein foods like peanuts and cheese.

Bombs at show

Brussels, Jan 16.—Five fire-bombs were discovered under the bonnets of five Citroen cars on display at the Brussels Motor Show yesterday.

Leading article, page 15

First quarterly trade surplus since 1971

By Caroline Atkinson

Economics Staff

Britain's trade account slipped back into the red last month. However, the trade surplus notched up in the previous two months outweighed December's £80m deficit, leaving the visible trade balance in surplus for the fourth quarter as a whole. This is the first quarter since 1971 where exports have exceeded imports.

For 1977 as a whole Britain's current account, which includes visible and invisible trade, was estimated to be in the black by £59m. This makes last year the first since the oil price rise of 1973, when Britain's current payments have been in surplus.

North Sea oil is mainly responsible for the turnaround in Britain's external position, and is estimated to have improved the trade balance by £2,400m last year. Some of this however is offset by the profits due abroad to foreign investors in the North Sea.

A much larger balance of payments surplus is expected for this year as North Sea oil production builds up. The latest official forecasts, which are below most other estimates, are for a current account surplus of £1,500m in 1978.

However, there is considerable concern about the level of imports, and the way that these have risen over the last year despite the slackness of the economy. Whitehall fears that the North Sea oil industry, payments surplus may be quickly eroded by increased imports unmatched by rising exports.

During December the usual surplus on invisible trade, which includes earnings from tourism and other services and profits from overseas invest-

ment, offset the visible deficit. The current account was thus in surplus by £65m during the month.

A sharp rise in the volume of crude oil imports was one factor behind the deterioration in the trade balance last month. Oil imports had fallen back unexpectedly in November, and then rebounded sharply.

Another special factor was a fall off in exports of precious stones.

On the plus side there was an improvement on shipping trade and on trade in oil installation equipment. The overall adverse effect of the special factors identified is estimated at £167m. This compares with a deterioration of £152m from the November trade surplus of £72m.

One other reason for erratic trade figures in November and December was the dock strike on the east coast of the United States. This contributed to a drop in both imports and exports in November and a rise in both last month.

However, the level of British exports to the United States was well on target in December, imports were still a little below the levels earlier in the year. This suggests that they could have further to rebound.

A worrying trend is shown in the underlying trade figures of manufactured goods. British imports of finished manufactures rose by 2.2 per cent by volume in the last three months of last year, while exports of manufactures dropped in volume by 3.1 per cent. Over the year as a whole, imports were 13.8 per cent higher than in 1976.

Tables, page 20

No quick solution to Italian crisis

From Peter Nichol

Rome, Jan 16.—Signor Giulio Andreotti today rounded off the first experiment by any Christian Democrat in leading an administration which had the formal and official collaboration of the Communists. He resigned after 18 months in office.

He explained to his last Cabinet meeting this morning that three of the parties on which the minority Christian Democrat Government had depended in Parliament had withdrawn their support. They were the Communists, the Socialists and the Republicans, all of which now claim to be pursuing the aim of an emergency government with the Communists as equal partners.

None of this was news to Signor Andreotti's colleagues, who inevitably accepted the end of a controversial administration, sixth in the order of

longevity among the 39 governments since the fall of fascism, and Signor Andreotti's third.

The Prime Minister then drove up the Quirinal Hill to announce his decision to President Leone who, as normal practice demands, took note of it and asked Signor Andreotti to continue handling normal business until another government had been formed.

The President will begin his consultation with political leaders tomorrow evening and is expected to announce the next step by the end of the week. It is regarded as certain that he will first ask Signor Andreotti to try to put a new government together.

This in no way means that Signor Andreotti can expect to be forming his fourth administration by the weekend. He will first have to make his own protracted soundings and then return to the President to announce whether or not he is in a position to lead a new government.

His own party is united at least on the point that it will not share government with the Communists. Faced with this blank refusal, the Communists must now decide what price to exact for their future support.

The puzzle to be solved is how to find a solution which the Communists can show as a notable advance, the Christian Democrats demonstrate not to be, and the country feels that it has a government strong enough to deal with its economic and social problems.

Most estimates are that the negotiations will be long and difficult, which is to promising prospect given the urgent problems facing the country. Not least of these is the increase in violence in general, and politically inspired violence in particular.

Continued on page 2, col 2

Uneasy peace as firemen return to their stations

By Christopher Thomas

and Robert Parker

The firemen went back to work yesterday in an atmosphere that could at best be described as uneasy. It became clear that there will be long-term consequences for working relationships in the fire service.

In London there was relief at being in work again, despite the bitterness at the circumstances of the pay strike settlement. Everyone arrived for work but the 40 men at Chelsea fire station were deemed by their employers to be still on strike after they had refused to talk to their station com-

mander, who had not joined the strike.

Hertfordshire's firemen's response to the non-strikers was typical of many brigades. Mr Dudley Bages, county secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, said the service could do nothing about how the "strike-breakers" were treated during rest periods despite the non-strike agreement.

"They will be sent to Coventry and find no food has been cooked for them," he said. "Bitterness is rife among those who stayed at home. Life is going to be uncomfortable for them."

Continued on page 2, col 2

Russia returns cosmonauts safely to Earth

Moscow, Jan 16.—Two Soviet cosmonauts returned to Earth aboard a Soyuz ferry vehicle after five days on board a Salyut orbiting space station with two of their comrades.

Colonel Vladimir Dzhanibekov and Mr Oleg Makarov, who last Wednesday completed the world's first double docking in space, by linking up their Soyuz 27 with Salyut 6, touched down in Central Asia according to plan, Tass news agency said.

The two cosmonauts, reported to be in good health, flew back in the Soyuz 26 craft which took Lieutenant-Colonel Yuri Romanenko and Mr Georgy Grechko to the orbiting station on December 11.

Yorkshire pits vote for output pacts

Yorkshire miners decided by 26,451 votes to 15,631 in favour of local productivity agreements. Their acceptance, against the advice of Mr Arthur Scargill, immeasurably improves the chances of the Government's pay policy holding through the winter (our Labour Editor writes). South Wales miners, for instance, are likely to abandon pay militancy. But shop stewards in the power supply industry voted to support any industrial action for higher increases.

Irish archbishop is criticized

Remarks by the Roman Catholic Primate of all Ireland, Dr O. Fialich, supporting the recent call by Mr. Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, for a British declaration of intent to withdraw from Northern Ireland have been criticized by Unionists and Westminster MPs alike.

Leyland union anger

Mr Michael Edwards, British Leyland chairman, faced anger, hostility and suspicion when he met union leaders to outline his reorganization plans for the car division, which would involve the loss of 12,000 jobs by the end of the year. Mr Edwards is to meet the Prime Minister soon.

Signs of sales boom

The first hard evidence that there is a boom in consumer spending on the way came with publication of provisional figures showing a rise of more than 3 per cent in retail sales during December, the first significant rise in four years.

Profit-sharing plan

Mr Healey will almost certainly reveal plans in his spring Budget for a new profit-sharing scheme which would allow millions of employees the opportunity to buy shares in their companies.

Mr Foot's damages

Mr Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, has received undisclosed damages in settlement of a libel action over a *Daily Mail* article alleging that he had private treatment as a National Health Service patient. Law Report, page 10.

Ecuador arrests

Several politicians in Ecuador, including Senator Assad Bocaram, the populist leader, who is considered favourite to win the next presidential election, have been arrested by the military Government.

Building society fraud

William Robinson, aged 72, who was said to have defrauded Wakefield Building Society, of which he was general manager, over a 30-year period, was jailed at Leeds Crown Court for six years.

Brussels: EEC supplies of Canadian uranium

Brussels: EEC supplies of Canadian uranium are restored under a compromise agreement setting up safeguards.

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HOME NEWS

Government's hopes for pay policy rise steeply after Yorkshire miners vote 2 to 1 for incentive deals

By Paul Rundle
Labour Editor

The chance of the Government's policy holding through the winter bargaining season improved immeasurably yesterday when a ballot result showed Yorkshire miners nearly two to one in favour of productivity deals rather than industrial action.

A secret ballot vote of the men went 2,451 (63 per cent) to 1,581 (37 per cent) against the advice of Mr Arthur Scargill, their left-wing president, who supported action in support of a claim that would have brought the National Union of Mineworkers into conflict with the Cabinet's limit of a tenth on overall earnings rise. South Wales miners, the last pocket of resistance to local pay incentives, are now likely to abandon wage militancy.

Shortly after the ballot result had been made known shop stewards in the power supply industry belonging to the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU) voted unanimously to support their national executive in any industrial action that might be taken in support of their claim for rises well in excess of the Cabinet's limit. But informed sources suggest that there is little stomach for a fight.

The EETPU is only one of four unions in the electricity industry, and it will consult the others before opening talks with the Electricity Council on the joint claim. In the wake of the miners' defeat and the miners' acceptance of pit incentives, the power workers are looking to productivity bargaining rather than a straight contest over basic rates as a solution to their



Mr Scargill announcing his members' vote yesterday.

pay aspirations. Mr Scargill said after the Yorkshire miners' vote had been disclosed that "one of the most fundamental principles has been sacrificed in support of a Labour government".

That principle was equal pay for the same job throughout the coal industry, for which the NUM had campaigned over twenty a year and has now, in part at least, forsaken. Face men will earn different weekly wages based on their output, and the pay of other workers underground and those on the surface will be geared to their performance.

The basic rate will still form the bulk of their pay, however, and the union is still technically committed to a claim for £135 a week at the face, a rise of nine pence, from March 1. The matter has yet to be resolved. Negotiations with the National

Coal Board resume on February 2.

Mr Scargill said: "The claim for £135 a week for face workers with appropriate differentials must be pressed immediately, although I am convinced that there are those in our union who will be prepared to accept government policy and, as a consequence, 10 per cent."

His conviction is not likely to be far misplaced. Loyalty to the Government played a large part in the decision of the moderate-dominated executive of the NUM to set aside a national ballot of the men that narrowly rejected pit incentives last October. After a Yorkshire colliery president the union's areas were allowed to negotiate their own productivity deals.

Building society man jailed for six years

From Our Correspondent
Leeds

William Robinson, aged 72, the former general manager of Wakefield Building Society, was sentenced at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to six years' imprisonment for defrauding the society over thirty years.

Frauds by Mr Robinson, who earned £9,700 a year, totalled almost £250,000 and cost the society £600,000 it was stated. Mr Robinson, who served the society for 30 years before being dismissed in June, 1976, averaged £10,000 a year from his frauds and spent much of the money gambling. Mr John Hitchen, for the prosecution, said:

"Mr Justice Milmo told Mr Robinson, now living in a bungalow association flat at Oley, near Leeds: 'Instead of protecting the property of those who employed you, you have been pursuing a criminal career and living on the proceeds of crime.'"

He also made a criminal bankruptcy order in the sum of £100,000.

Mr Robinson pleaded guilty to 19 specimen charges of theft, forgery, obtaining property by deception, perjury and uttering a forged document. Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the defence, said Mr Robinson had not corrupted anyone else and for the most part his dishonesty had not been on small investors. The main loss had fallen on the society.

Det. Chief Inspector William Little, head of West Yorkshire fraud squad, said Mr Robinson had taken full responsibility for his actions and had not sought to blame others, including John Poulson, who was a director of the society.

Mr Hitchen said Mr Robinson's system had been to create bogus accounts either to steal money or to repay thefts. The accounts were opened in the names of relatives and friends and by using the society's green ledger, never which he had complete control. Staff did not question entries. Ordinary ledgers were under staff control.

Mr Hitchen said Mr Robinson began his dishonesty in 1946 after 11 years as society secretary. After a fall of several years he resumed his frauds on a grand scale in 1967 and continued until he was dismissed. He became general manager in 1949.

Counsel said there were 403 occasions on which either money was stolen or a cheque was obtained dishonestly. The total sum obtained was £134,850, worth, with interest to the society, a total of £245,224.

From 1949, Mr Hitchen continued, Mr Robinson, a Methodist lay preacher and charity worker, cost the society £600,000 by his thefts and amounts he advanced on the estate of his predecessor and friend, Mr George Jackson, who died owing the society £250,000.

When Robinson came to annual audit it was said that Mr Robinson would either produce false deeds as security or give false explanations about their absence. Mr Hitchen said that in 1971 Mr Robinson came to an end of getting that year's accounts passed and it was in no small measure due to his successor, Mr Tom Taylor, an honest and determined man, that the matters came to light.

Mr Robinson, now living on a £3,100 a year society pension, plus a state pension, had since sold his house and repaid legitimate accounts, which left him with £4,000. The court was told that there was no evidence that he had salted money away.

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Prison drug smuggling disclosed by doctor

By a Staff Reporter

A prisoner being treated for heroin addiction at Brixton prison, London, died after an overdose of LSD, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Dr M. G. Mansuri, a former Brixton medical officer, said the drug appeared to have been smuggled to the man during an open visit. He said he had been told by a senior prison doctor that the man had been given LSD, or do anything about the incident.

Dr Mansuri believed the reason was that the case conflicted with the newly introduced Home Office policy of open visiting, in which contact was allowed between visitors and inmates.

Dr Mansuri, of Upper Norwood, London, who is seeking a declaration of unfair dismissal against the Home Office, said the death of Victor Barlow, the prisoner, occurred in June, 1974. He knew of other cases in which inmates had been brought to the prison hospital after drugs had been passed to them during open visits.

He said that three times he had pointed that out to Dr R. I. K. Blyth the principal medical officer at Brixton, but he had not taken any notice.

After the prisoner's death Dr Mansuri was interviewed by Dr D. O. Top, regional prison officer for the South-east, who told him to say and do nothing about the death and who disapproved of Dr Mansuri making notes on the case.

Dr Mansuri said the inmate died after an overdose of LSD, which had been wrapped in cigarette foil and swallowed. The foil had opened slightly, allowing the drug to escape into the blood.

Dr Mansuri added that his relationship with his superiors deteriorated after the incident and the following year he was transferred against his will to Leeds prison. He was suspended from duty in March, 1976, after complaints about poor time-keeping and attendance and dismissed last April.

Dr Mansuri also told the tribunal that he had refused to feed artificially a prisoner at Leeds.

The request had been made by Dr Ronald Ingreby-Senn, assistant director of prison medical services, and formally senior medical officer at Leeds who was said to have warned Dr Mansuri of the "dire consequences" that would result from his refusal.

The hearing continues today.

A prince's architect broke law

An architect working for a Saudi Arabian prince whose two new houses in an exclusive London conservation area were demolished without planning permission was fined £75, with £25 costs, at West London Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Prince Turki bin Abdullah lived next to the buildings in Hyde Park Gate Mews, Kensington. His architect, Rolf Rothelme, of Ovington Gardens, Kensington, pleaded guilty to demolishing a building without consent.

Miss Angela Turner, for Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, said the houses were demolished last August. Planning permission to demolish the site, given to 1973, had lapsed three years later.

Mr Patrick Hamlin, for the defence, said Mr Rothelme had believed he could demolish the buildings under the 1973 planning consent.

"He did not appreciate an extraordinarily complicated amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act," he said. Mr Hamlin said the houses were unsightly, of no historical importance and structurally unsound.

Boy aged 12 on trial for murder

A boy, aged 12, went on trial for murder at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, said the boy, aged 12, Paul Caboon, aged 20, and Henry George Russell, aged 17, had been concerned in the brutal murder of a tramp in a derelict building last July.

Mr Tudor Price said Stephen Anderson, aged 52, was beaten with an iron bar, had bottles, a supermarket trolley and a fire place surround thrown at him and lumps of concrete dropped on his head. Mr Anderson had been "finished off" when he told his attackers that he would be able to identify them.

Counsel added: "The killing seems to have been the sequel to a violent assault on Mr Anderson undertaken for its own sake, simply for the sake of beating him up."

All four deny murdering Mr Anderson at Copeland Road, Peckham, on July 27. The boy, the girl and Henry Russell also deny making an affray on the same date. Paul Caboon pleads guilty to that charge.

The trial continues today.

Menace of the Mump

Burrow Mump, a bill covering 93 acres at Burrowbridge, Somerset, is moving, Mr Justice O'Connor was told in the High Court yesterday.

As a result, the occupiers of two houses at the bottom of the hill are suing the National Trust, which owns it, for damages. They are also seeking an order requiring the trust to do something to keep the Mump in check and put what has moved back where it came from.

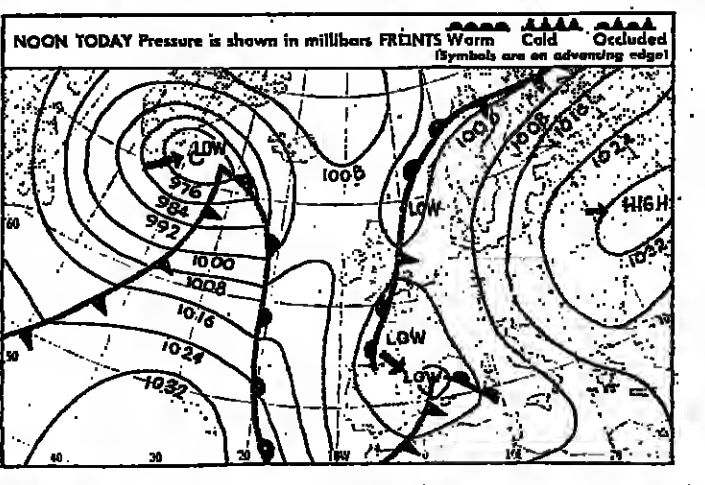
Mr Hubert Dunn, counsel for Mr Leslie McDonald Leakey and his wife Doris, of Elm Glen, Burrowbridge, and Mr Edward

Charles Storey, of Hillside, said: "It is a serious menace." Mr Dunn said Mr and Mrs Leakey had lived in Elm Glen since 1967. In September, 1976, the Mump began to move "in a most menacing way", partly because of heavy rain. Large quantities of soil came down.

In its defence, the trust, which was given the Mump in 1946, said that in moving it was only doing what came naturally. The alleged encroachment on the land of Mr and Mrs Leakey and Mr Storey was the result of natural subsidence.

The hearing continues today.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.58 am. Sun sets: 4.24 pm.
Moon rises: 1.38 am. Moon sets: 11.51 am.
Full moon: January 24.
Lighting up: 4.54 pm to 7.37 am.
High water: London Bridge, 7.30 am, 6.40 pm (20.9 ft); 8.11 pm, 6.30 am (20.6 ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 1.13 pm, 10.40 am (34.3 ft). Dover, 4.52 am, 5.71 pm (18.5 ft). 5.37 pm, 5.44 am (17.8 ft).
Liverpool, 5.15 am, 7.50 am (24.6 ft). 5.40 pm, 7.60 am (24.5 ft).
A depression in the North Sea will be slow moving.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE, E, England, East Anglia, Rain or sleet at times, snow in places; wind variable, becoming N light; max temp 13°C (55°F).
Midlands, S, Central N England, Midlands, Rain or sleet, some snow, more especially on hills, clearing during day; wind N light or moderate; max temp 3°C (37°F).
Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Sunny intervals, windy showers, some heavy; wind NW moderate or fresh; max temp 14°C (57°F).
N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, windy showers, some heavy; wind N, NW moderate; max temp 3°C (37°F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Mostly cloudy, sleet or snow at times, rain near coasts. Wind N or NW, moderate; max temp 3°C (37°F).
Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy, sleet or snow at times. Wind N, moderate or fresh; max temp 2°C (36°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Windy showers in E, rain or sleet or snow at times, and S areas later; rather cold, night frost.
Sea passages: S North Sea, moderate; sea slight.
English Channel (E): Wind variable, becoming mostly N, moderate; sea slight.
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind N, fresh, locally strong; sea moderate or rough.

30-day forecast

The Meteorological Office yesterday issued the following forecast for the next 30 days: Further cold spells likely, especially around the middle of the month.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY	MIDDAY	C	CLD	F	FUR	R
Abolton	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Albright	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Alford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Alton	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Ammanford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Ammanford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Ammanford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Ammanford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Ammanford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0
Ammanford	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0

Mr Powell tells Tories to speak for England

Mr Enoch Powell warned the Conservative Party yesterday that it has no long-term future unless it "speaks for England".

Addressing South Kensington Young Conservatives, Mr Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, said the party had of necessity relevant and taught the Commons the grammar and syntax of a United Kingdom and a sovereign Parliament when it fought the devolution Bills.

Now it remained to be seen whether the party could develop its returning memory of the meaning of nationhood and sovereign Parliament "in turn to speak for Britain". Britain, he added, "which is increasingly disposed to insist, we remain a part of the EEC that it should not remain a collaboration of independent and sovereign states."

It was 18 months ago, Mr Powell recalled, that he told the same group of Young Conservatives of the events and cause of the party's defeat from the Tory Party. During the 18 months one thing had become clearer than ever: "there is no future in the long run for a Conservative Party which does not speak for England, which is doing so or not doing so."

Parliament, he said, had been under attack from inside an outside.

"From inside the attack was that of the nationalists, rather than of the dupes an opposition, who argued, under the fallacious text of devolution, that Parliament's exclusive right to make the law for all parts of the United Kingdom should be abrogated, and bits and pieces of it given to the devolved regions which it was said regarded themselves as nations or their own right."

The subject was one on which the Conservative Party had been "hopelessly muddled and compromised by exhortations made since 1959 to buy votes in Scotland and particularly by ignoring a sacrificial constitutional essential."

As soon as specific proposals were put forward for setting up legislatures in Scotland and Wales, members on all sides of the Commons began to "clear-sighted again".

He realized that it would be incompatible with the sovereignty of Parliament and with the unity of the United Kingdom. The Labour Party, "stuck with its cautious commitment to the House of Lords, long more seats in Scotland and Wales, had thought itself obliged to forge ahead by calling on 'all the resources of party discipline, and the terror of premature dissolution to guide the Bills through the present session, largely undebated'."

Mr Powell went on to point out how both Labour and Conservative attitudes to Europe had changed during the passage of the direct elections Bill.

"There is unmistakably a growing convergence in Parliament and in the two main parties towards a national line in Europe which would lead back to use the Prime Minister's words, towards the maintenance of the authority of national governments and parliaments."

"Yet both parties, ironically, are stuck with the commitment to a directly elected European parliament which contradicts their aspirations."

No court ban on Newham meeting

Mr Justice Michael Davies refused at a private hearing last evening to grant an injunction postponing a meeting of Newham, North-East, Labour Party later the same day.

Mr Paul McCormick, leader of the moderates in the constituency party, had sought to have the meeting postponed to give his group time to consider its plans.

Earlier yesterday in the Court of Appeal the moderates successfully sought the cancellation of an injunction that would have prevented them from opposing a move to amend the local party's constitution.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, cancelled the injunction and said the order appeared to interfere with the right of freedom of speech. "That is not a matter we should support," he added.

The injunction was granted at a private court hearing on Friday to Miss Joan Lester, chairman of the Labour Party.

Mr McCormick told the Court of Appeal: "The injunction has done a lot of damage to us over the weekend and left-wingers have got an unwelcome advantage over us for the meeting this evening."

British Leyland fined £300 over asbestos

British Leyland was fined £300 by magistrates at Solihull, West Midlands, yesterday, after the corporation had admitted failing to warn contractors that they were dealing with asbestos.

The offence occurred when insulation was stripped from the former Rover 2000 factory last September.

A factory inspector said he found dust containing 12 per cent asbestos in the deep on every flat surface in the factory. The building was cleared and specialist contractors with breathing apparatus took away 137 sacks of the dust overnight.

Drug trial ending

Verdicts are expected today in the trial of two men who have pleaded not guilty at Bristol Crown Court to charges of conspiracy to smuggle cannabis from Morocco into the Algarve.

Frederick Hughes, aged 30, bricklayer, of Llanddewi Brefi, near Tregaron, Dyfed, and Paul Kiernan Healy, aged 28, salesman, of Tregaron.

Steel losses estimated at £520m, Commons told

Continued from page 1

Questioned about allegations that vital information had been withheld during the public hearings, Mr Varley replied that when he appeared before the committee last month he had not been asked about the financial results. He then made his offer to appear before it again.

The £466m loss projection for the year made in July, he said, was "highly speculative and the steel industry throughout the world was operating in devastating market conditions."

Mr Varley reaffirmed that the corporation would keep within its £920m cash limit for this year but said that the BSC's existing borrowing limit of £400m could be increased in the present parliamentary session.

Questioned about the timing of his statement on the future of the steel industry, Mr Varley said he was still awaiting the outcome of discussions between



A pair of fireman's boots and over-trousers on stand-by at Mount Pleasant station, London, yesterday, for the return of the long-absent wearer.

Bitterness mars firemen's return to work

Continued from page 1

On the surface the return to work was orderly, but union officials conceded the likelihood of trouble in some places later.

The Army continued to fight fires in some areas until it was decided that the firemen were ready to take over.

Local authority employers generally strive to ease the return to work. Derbyshire and Devon joined other brigades in offering interest-free loans until the men's first salary cheques arrive next month.

Mr Richard Foggie, FBU assistant general secretary, said of the officers who worked during the strike: "We have to work with them but not to play with them."

The national situation was as follows: Strathclyde: One of Britain's biggest brigades with 2,000 men and one of the most militant areas, reported a full return.

Derbyshire: Firemen who ignored the strike have been sent to Coventry by colleagues, but they will work together.

Avon: Mr Terence McCarthy, county fire chief, said the return was going well.

Salop: Mr Robert Russell, chief fire officer, said the return was going well.

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members had threatened not to work normally with non-strikers. More talks are planned for today.

Kent: Local FBU leaders plan to ask for personal loans to help the men out of acute financial trouble. About a quarter of the strikers apparently failed to report for work.

Greater Manchester: The service was ready to work by noon.

West Midlands: After making final equipment checks, the firemen took over from the troops.

Essex: The 800 men went back, but Mr James Cawley, an FBU leader, said tension was "huddling below the surface".

Berkshire: The men went back despite a threat not to work next night.

Fireman Mark Gunston, aged 22, who refused to strike, Mr Gunston was back at work yesterday afternoon.

Southern Ireland: The 500 full-time firemen were providing full cover by early last night.

The Chelsea firemen who were deemed yesterday to be still on strike had decided before the national settlement to "send to Coventry" two of their colleagues who had not joined them. One has resigned; the other is Mr Christopher Hills, station commander.

"We regard this as a lock-out by the employers," their spokesman said. "We returned to work along with everybody else fully prepared to get on with our job again. We shall stay here now and turn up every day for work." The men have

not yet asked for sympathetic action by other firemen.

For the most part firemen at the rest of the capital's stations busied themselves with cleaning their buildings, removing woodpiles collected for their makeshift picket fires, checking machines and equipment, and doing work imposed by the safety regulations.

Most of the men said it was good to be earning money again instead of shivering on the picket lines.

However, a leading fireman at Belsize Park station said there was a profound mistrust of the settlement, with its two stages. "If the Tories get in this year then they can just tear the whole thing up," he said. "The last nine weeks would have been in vain."

At Mount Pleasant station, Station Officer David Holland said: "The dispute has left a bitter feeling between strikers and non-strikers, but I think the wounds will heal."

At the same station, Leading Fireman Brian Sharpe said he and many of his colleagues felt they had been used as a political football. "A lot of us will never vote Labour again."

No London fire appliances were allowed out on call until all the brigade's stations were "visible". That was achieved at 2.48 pm.

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HOME NEWS

Archbishop's plea on Ulster withdrawal angers the Unionists

From Our Correspondent
Belfast

Unionists in Northern Ireland have complained about support for the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, Dr O'Neill, for the call by Mr O'Neill, Prime Minister of the Republic, for a British withdrawal from the island.

In an interview, published in the newspaper in the Irish Republic, he said: "I think the British should withdraw from Ireland. I believe in a declaration of intent. I know it is a coloured phrase, but I think it is the only thing which will get the British out of Ireland."

He regretted that it did not happen after the collapse of the 1968-69 ceasefire. There were protests in the streets looking on in frustration at a friendly hand to a statesman, and a declaration coupled with sincere gestures from the south would have done good. I am sure that the Northern problem is not an all-Ireland one. It is a local one. We are only putting off the day.

Mr Harry West, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said it was a "disgrace" that the British Conservative Government was not "speaking in one voice" and that the Archbishop's plea was "a disgrace to the British people".

The Rev Ian Paisley said the Archbishop's plea was "a disgrace to the British people".

Mr O'Neill's plea was "a disgrace to the British people".

High Court asked for contempt case ruling

The High Court was asked yesterday to rule whether newspaper television reports of a woman's trial on theft and fraud charges were in contempt of court by disclosing that she had already pleaded guilty to other charges before the trial opened.

Mr Harry Woolf, counsel for the Attorney General, maintained that the reports of the guilty pleas in the *Newcastle Journal* and on *Border Television* were highly prejudicial.

He told Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with Mr Justice Melford Stevenson and Mr Justice Lloyd in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, that after publication of the report in January, last year, the trial judge at Carlisle Crown Court discharged the jury and ordered a new trial in another part of the country.

He referred the matter to the Attorney General for him to ask the High Court whether there had been a contempt. Mr Woolf said contempt was denied.

Both the newspaper and *Border Television* said it had been unaware of the amendment of the indictment to prevent the jury knowing of the guilty pleas.

The newspaper's case was that it was entitled, as part of a fair and accurate report, to refer to the guilty pleas, which had been taken in open court. The hearing continues today.

Education publicity campaign aimed at the blue-collar worker

Independent schools seek to kill snob image

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) yesterday launched a national publicity campaign aimed in particular at attracting lorry drivers, milkmen, machine operators and other blue-collar workers.

Mr Tim Devlin, director of ISIS, said: "I want to open up the independent schools and to get people applying from all sections of the community. We are the epitome of bastions of privilege."

The best way to save the independent schools from further socialist attacks was to persuade parents of all political persuasions to support the schools.

He suggested that the ticket to an independent school was no longer supplied so much by high salaries or inherited wealth as by the willingness and ability of the wife to go out and get a job. He pointed out that the wife's tax-free earnings allowance of £845 a year was above the average

cost of an independent day school.

Heads of independent schools all over Britain spoke of hundreds of women who had taken jobs as secretaries, nurses, teachers and such like to pay their children's fees, he said.

Fees range from about £600 to more than £1,000 for an independent day school, and from about £1,300 to more than £2,000 for an independent boarding school. That compared unfavourably with the average £459 recurrent cost of education in a state secondary school.

He questioned the validity of the criticism that independent schools were socially exclusive. ISIS, which represents 1,069 of the 1,532 independent preparatory and secondary schools in England and Wales recognized as "efficient", had received reports from members of children from all kinds of social and economic backgrounds.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, miners' children were going to independent schools. In Doncaster a machine operator's wife had taken a job scrubbing the

factory floor to help to pay fees. In Nottingham a fairground worker had just decided to send his son to a private preparatory school.

From Birmingham came a report of a policeman who said he was determined not to send his child to the local comprehensive school because he was called so often to cope with incidents there. In Bristol, a postman whose wife worked in a packing factory had decided to send his son to Bristol Cathedral School.

Mr David Jewell, head of Bristol Cathedral School, a former direct grant school, had recently studied the occupations of parents of all entrants since the school became independent in September, 1976. Mr Devlin said. He had found that 49 out of 118 new pupils, or about two fifths, came from non-professional families.

On Thursday the first of a series of "ISIS weeks" to be staged throughout the country will open in Bristol. An ISIS advice centre stocked with prospectuses from 213 schools and manned by a team of indepen-

dent school experts will be stationed in the Broadmead shopping centre for three days. Then 45 independent schools in the Bristol area will open their doors for four days to interested parents so that they may meet the staff and pupils and see round the school.

The ISIS drive is to be backed up by a parallel campaign to build a national pressure group for independent schools. On Friday ISIS will launch the Association for Friends of Independent Schools. Membership will cost £3 a year.

The association will seek to enable more parents to send their children to independent schools by campaigning for tax concessions for fee-paying parents; for an assisted scheme to provide means-tested grants for children at independent schools; and for boarding bursaries.

Mr Devlin said ISIS was acting from a position of strength, not weakness. The number of pupils in independent schools had increased by 2,500 since 1974, although the number of boarders was declining.

£700 fines over fatal steelworks blast

From Our Correspondent
Lincoln

The British Steel Corporation was fined £700 at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday after admitting charges connected with an explosion that killed 11 men at a South Humberside plant more than two years ago.

The blast, at the Appleby Frodingham steelworks, on November 4, 1975, showered molten metal over hundreds of yards. Four men died and seven of 15 men taken to hospital with serious burns died of their injuries.

The corporation pleaded guilty to two charges of failing to ensure the safety of employees. One count related to two men and the corporation's failure to maintain the cooling system of the Queen Victoria blast furnace; the other to the failure to provide suitable protective clothing for three men. It was fined £500 on the first count and £200 on the second, and was ordered to pay costs.

Orphanage man jailed for life

John Dwyer, aged 25, a house father in an Irish orphanage, who killed a boy of nine who had begged to be adopted by him, was jailed for life by the High Court in Edinburgh yesterday after pleading guilty to murder.

He was said to have drowned the boy in his bath while they were playing with a toy boat in the bath. The boy, who was named as Thomas, was a child of the orphanage in Dublin.

Mr Dwyer, who was said to

have been trained for 10 years with a religious teaching order before becoming a house father, was said to have the police feel that Tommy is better off dead than taken back to the home where he was unhappy. After he had drowned the boy, he said, he tried to commit suicide by taking an drug overdose.

Examination of methods: Health board officials in the Irish Republic are examining their methods of child welfare after the murder of Thomas

Hayden (the press Association reports). Mr Haughey, Minister for Health, rejected calls in the Irish Parliament last November for a public inquiry. He said he was deeply concerned by the tragedy and planned to examine the circumstances.

Mr Haughey said he had received a full report from the Eastern Health Board, the authority responsible for the boy while he was in official care, and he had decided that a public investigation would not be worth while.

Board buys potatoes to help farms

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Ministers resumed the bolstering of potato prices for farmers yesterday by allowing the Potato Marketing Board to buy up to 20,000 tons of potatoes. The present farm price of about £30 a ton compares with a government guarantee of £46.50.

The first part of the campaign ended late last year after 200,000 tons of potatoes had been bought for about £5m. The tubers have been dyed purple and are on offer for livestock feed at less than half price.

The Ministry of Agriculture said farm prices were so low that a substantial increase in farm-gate prices could be accommodated without a significant increase in retail prices.

Tories may curb white Rhodesians' return

White settlers in Rhodesia who might want to come to Britain if the constitutional issue was resolved, may not be allowed automatic entry by a future Conservative government. That was the view of Mr Keith Speed, one of the party's home affairs frontbench team, who spoke on the *Evening News* programme on BBC radio yesterday.

He was answering questions from Mr Young on the party's plan to curb immigration. Asked about the commitment of the Government to British passport holders in East Africa, he said: "At the moment the Government reckons that about 30,000 of these people are still to come into the country. They are coming in at the rate of about five thousand a year on a quota system."

"What we have said is that if the Government's figures were very wrong—£4, instead of 30,000, we were talking about, say, 300,000—then obviously we should have to look at the situation again. Because I do not think we could commit ourselves there."

Four or five years ago we had the Uganda crisis coming in. We took 28,000 in a matter of months and at that time Robert Carr, the Tory Home Secretary, said it was a once-and-for-all operation and we could not go through that again. And that is the view of the party today."

When Mr Speed was asked about white settlers in Rhodesia who might want to return to Britain he replied: "That is the same as the Uganda Asians. If a great mass of people from any country, Rhodesia or elsewhere, all wanted suddenly to come in, our social, health, housing and education services just could not cope."

"So we should have to take a long, hard look at whether we could permit people to come in from any country, not just black countries. At the moment the problem happens to be people who have different coloured skins to ours, but on a future occasion it might be white people and the same situation would have to apply."

Chairman of Schools Council to go

Sir Alex Smith, chairman of the Schools Council since 1975, is to retire from the unpaid post at the end of the month, nine months before his term of office expires. Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has accepted the decision with regret.

Sir Alex, aged 55, is Director of Manchester Polytechnic and has given pressure of work as the main reason.

The Schools Council is an independent body responsible for examination and curriculum reform in England and Wales. It is financed equally by the local education authorities and the Government.

Sir Alex's final task with the council will be to preside when a report reviewing its structure is presented on January 31.

Burnt hotel facade must go

A decision yesterday by Glasgow District Council's planning committee to demolish the mid-Victorian facade of the Grosvenor Hotel, which was swept away by a fire earlier this month, has annoyed residents and conservationists.

Architectural authorities from many parts of the world had regarded the elegant facade as one of the city's landmarks. Part of the terrace was used by the Red Sticks Organisation for the hotel.

Mr Robert McGowan, director of the council's building control service, said the remaining structure could not be repaired. Accordingly, the subcommittee granted a warrant, presented on behalf of Norwich Union, to demolish the facade. The demolition of about half the listed facade.

The council will support the demand of the residents' association that any alternative structure should harmonise with the rest of the terrace.

A leading member of the association said last night: "We are glad that the facade will be cleared, but we are concerned that the terrace will be lost. It was regarded as a terrace of great architectural quality."

'5p a week for a Scot' to run assembly

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

The weekly cost to every Scot of running the proposed Scottish assembly would be no more than the price of a box of matches, Mr George Reid, Scottish Nationalist MP for Stirlingshire, East and Clackmannan and joint party spokesman on devolution, said yesterday.

Mr Reid, firing an opening shot in the nationalists' campaign for a "yes" vote in the assembly referendum, was speaking at a press conference in Glasgow. In round terms, he said, the assembly would cost about £12m a year. That worked out at £2.60 a head a year of 5p a head a week.

"What we get for that is our own parliament, here in Scotland for the first time in over 270 years. We reckon it is a bargain."

Isobel Lindsay, the party's head of policy, contrasted the cost of the assembly with the cost of running the local authority regional structure. It was estimated, she said, that the regions had cost Scotland more than £100m in one year alone, the estimated net expenditure for regional authority administration and management was £36,875,000, amounting to £7.08 a head. Compared to this, the cost of a Scottish assembly is infinitesimal, she said.

Miss Lindsay made it clear that the regional councils would be the first piece of "Westminster frill" to be axed by a Scottish assembly in which the SNP had a majority. Abolishing them would save on everything from councillor expenses and rent on leased buildings to heating, administrative and manpower costs. "Upwards of £7m currently spent on salaries and councillor's expenses, and cost alone can be saved by a Scottish assembly which rid us of the regions", she said.

Mr Reid added that figures showed without doubt that the idea of a Scottish assembly being costly was a myth.

Leading article, page 15

Press Council 'buke for Daily Express'

Press Council has upheld a complaint against the *Daily Express* for failing to correct a comment in its William Hickman which incorrectly described a man as wearing naval uniform.

Mr R. D. de Sola, of Fountain House, Park Street, Westminster, the council he did not wear uniform of the Royal Naval Reserve. He usually wore the uniform of a member of the Royal London Yacht Club, which was quite different. He was a member of the council, but not for publication, he said. He was not acknowledged as a member of the council, deputy editor, the original report said the words "naval-style" but the word "style" was in production.

Mr Peter McKay, editor of the *Express*, said the council that the council had been dealt with publication of a letter to the effect that Mr de Sola had not been a member of the council, "not for publication".

re Home News pages 10 and

Journalist cleared of bid to influence witness

Mr Gordon Tether, the columnist who alleges that he was unfairly dismissed by the *Financial Times*, has been cleared of any intention to influence a witness giving evidence for the newspaper publishers at an industrial tribunal hearing.

Mr Tether complained to the Employment Appeal Tribunal yesterday that the industrial tribunal hearing his claim had wrongly decided that he had attempted to influence a witness, Mr Mark Van de Weyer (chairman) of the National Union of Journalists' Chapel (office branch) at the newspaper. Mr Tether had sent a memorandum to the union accusing Mr Van de Weyer of breaking union rules.

Mr Justice Phillips said the lower tribunal had merely expressed disapproval of Mr Tether's action; it had not given a decision to take any further action. The lower tribunal had

Drug smuggler's sentence cut by two years

Trevor Thompson, aged 42, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for his part in a plot to smuggle cannabis into England from Morocco, had his sentence cut to three years by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Mr Thompson, of Saxon Wood Road, Solihull, an insurance inspector and former assistant scout commissioner for west Warwickshire, was sentenced at Warwick Crown Court on June 20. He had admitted conspiring to import cannabis with a retail value of £148,000 in caravans with false floors. He admitted illegally exporting £6,000 to pay for the deal.

Lord Justice Bridge, sitting yesterday with Mr Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Jupp, said five years was on the face of it not an excessive sentence, despite Mr Thompson's previous good character.

The court had interfered only because of the part played by a police informer, Mr Dennis Mulloy.

Lord Justice Bridge said Mr Mulloy had deceived police and conspirators alike. The evidence suggested that his role in bringing the conspiracy to fruition was significant. On that basis Mr Thompson's sentence was excessive.

The court quashed the conviction and sentence of Costas Georgiou Costa, aged 32, of Beehive Lane, Hford, who had been sentenced to two years' jail.

Lord Justice Bridge said the evidence given against him by Mr Mulloy was at best confused and uncertain.

Family charged with murder

Mrs Margaret Foote, aged 48, her husband George, aged 49, and their daughter, Yvonne, aged 21, appeared in private before Sheriff Neil Gow at Arran yesterday, charged with murdering Erico Iannarelli, aged 62, a cafe owner, in his cafe at Girvan, Strathclyde, on December 20.

They are accused of repeatedly stabbing him in the body with a knife and robbing him of a four-figure sum and three cheques. They were remanded in custody for further inquiries.

Citroën cuts prices of car spares by 16½%

Peter Waymark
Oxford Correspondent

Citroën threw down a challenge to other car manufacturers yesterday by announcing average cut of 16½ per cent the prices of replacement parts. This follows a period of 14 months since prices last increased.

Parrick Brun-Wibaux, Citroën managing director in Britain, admitted that the company had been criticised for the price of its parts but said they were now lower than average.

The reduction had been made possible by the lifting of import duties on goods from the European Community, an improved

Secondary education costs vary by £244 a head

By Our Education Correspondent

It costs £652 a year to educate a child in a state secondary school in inner London, compared with £388 in Bury, Greater Manchester. That means that five children in Bury are being educated for the price of three in inner London.

That is one of thousands of items on estimated education spending and statistics in individual local authorities in England and Wales for the current year, published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Among the 39 English counties, Hertfordshire has the highest average cost at £902 a year for educating a child in

Secondary education costs vary by £244 a head

secondary school, while Suffolk, at £403, has the lowest.

Costs in the eight Welsh counties tend to be higher, ranging from £553 in Powys to £442 in Clwyd. Among the 36 metropolitan districts, costs range from £566 in the city of Manchester to £388 in neighbouring Bury.

The average cost of educating a child in England and Wales as a whole is £459 for secondary schools, £304 for primary schools, £458 for nursery education, and £1,301 for special education, including boarding schools and hospitals.

Education Statistics 1977-78 (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6BS, £4).



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HOME NEWS

Scottish Secretary is 'largest landowner with thirtieth of UK'

By Hugh Clayton

Mr Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, is the largest landowner, with an estate of forests and smallholdings that covers a thirtieth of the area of the United Kingdom. The extent of his title is disclosed in a report about landowners from the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at Reading University, published yesterday.

Although it does not cover individual private landowners, the report's national survey of the holdings of institutions is one of the most comprehensive since the 1873 survey of parishes in England and Wales. Information available today is extremely meagre, the report says. Some authorities do not know how much farmland they own or rent. Some guesswork has been necessary.

Although the rights of the Secretary of State over land in his name are more restricted than those of a family landowner, his total estate is far more extensive than the largest private holding of woodland and moor. Of his 794,000 hectares, slightly more than half is forest.

Although Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, owns less than half as much as Mr Millan he is still a much bigger landowner than the Queen. The Crown Estate contains fewer than 150,000 hectares, of which two thirds

Farmland ownership only (hectares)

Government departments	
Local councils	376,724
The Crown	356,943
Financial institutions	188,900
Water authorities	158,556
Oxford and Cambridge colleges	89,491
National Coal Board	54,000
Co-operative Wholesale Society	15,000

Source: Centre for Agricultural Strategy.

is farmland. The duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster, together, own almost 70,000 hectares of farmland.

The report estimates that well over 60,000 hectares of land is vested in Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, in the form of highways and main roads. Oxford colleges own more than 40,000 hectares of farmland and one college has almost 9,000 hectares.

Although the report says nothing about the elusive question of the size and structure of private estates, it will ease the task of the Northfield committee, which Mr Silkin has told to discover who owns farmland and who is buying it.

UK move to protect livestock

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

Ministers are to seek the help of other EEC governments to protect British farm animals from cruelty when they are sold abroad. A report on livestock exports being prepared at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will accept pressure from welfare groups that too little is known about the fate of animals after they leave British shores.

Dr Richard Melrose, chief veterinary officer at the Meat and Livestock Commission, told a press conference in London yesterday: "We feel that control from this end is adequate."

But the commission had said in evidence to the ministry that the system was open to abuse unless it was closely monitored.

Mr Walter Johnson, commission chairman, said he considered that that aspect was important to counter "the emotional outbursts on the part of welfare bodies, which I respect", but he added that he saw no reason why live exports would be bad.

The ministry has accepted the meat trade's case that although Britain greatly depends on food imports it is essential to export more meat to help the balance of payments. Mr Hilary Marks, chief economist at the commission, said yesterday that beef exports might rise by more than a third to 115,000 tonnes this year; consumption of all meat, including poultry, might fall by a fifth to 3.15 million tonnes.

Move to settle dispute at BBC by Friday

By Kenneth Gosling

Local talks aimed at settling the dispute between the BBC and its engineers by Friday were adjourned yesterday and will resume today. The two sides arrived on Friday at a formula that included the reinstatement by the BBC of 500 engineering members of the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs.

Until a final settlement is reached on overtime working both BBC television channels will be subject to early closure this week. That has meant the cancellation of last night's *Talk Journal* on BBC2 and tonight's edition of *The Engineers on BBC1*.

Nuclear fuel by air

A consignment of fuel elements from Windscale for the prototype fast reactor at Dounreay was transported by air for the first time yesterday.

Lords hear plea over rights of mistresses

By Annabel Ferriman

A mistress has the right to turn out her violent lover only if she has exclusive property rights to the home, Mr Joseph Jackson, QC, argued before the appeal committee of the House of Lords yesterday.

The Law Lords were hearing the appeal of Mr Nehemiah Johnson against a Court of Appeal ruling last November excluding him from the Hackney council flat which he shared with his wife Jennifer Davis, aged 27, and their daughter, aged two, because of his allegedly violent behaviour towards her.

In a judgment that made legal history, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, ruled that in cases of violence personal rights took priority over property rights.

He said the Domestic Violence Act gave protection to Miss Davis even though she was not married and although Mr Johnson had a joint tenancy on the flat.

Mr Jackson, appearing for Mr Johnson, argued yesterday that the 1976 Act did not change the law. If Parliament had intended the new law to override property rights and common law it would have laid down a code of set guidelines, regulating the rights and obligations of the person remaining in occupation of the home as the Matrimonial Homes Act, 1967, had done.

He said that section 1 of the Act was a procedural provision that allowed a court to grant an injunction in a woman excluding her husband or lover from their home, without her first having to claim damages for trespass or assault or, in the case of married women, having to petition for divorce.

That provision applied only to unmarried women with property rights who owned or were the sole tenants of their homes, he said. In all other cases the common law applied, under which one joint tenant could not exclude another joint tenant.

"Not only does the Act not achieve much; it does not set out to achieve much," Mr Jackson said.

Lord Dilhorne said Parliament had clearly intended to do something for mistresses, as shown by sub-section 2 of the Act's first section. That referred to mistresses, not just mistresses with property rights.

The hearing continues.

'Hard-core classroom pornography' warning

Hard-core pornography is on the way to becoming a normal diet for children in classrooms, a report in a Home Office committee says today.

It criticizes some forms of sex education to which young children are exposed and also teenage girls' magazines for giving explicit sexual advice, publishing pictures of nude boys and readers' letters about the sexual experiences of well-known personalities.

The report is the basis of evidence to be given to the Home Office Committee on Obscenity and Censorship by the Responsibility Society, whose sponsors include Sir John Peel, Lord Shawcross and Sir Brian Windeyer.

It seeks to scrap the Obscene Publications Act and the Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Act. Instead, it calls for legislation to protect the public from the influences "injurious to the physical and mental health of the community".

Referring to teenage magazines, it says of one: "Richards feature articles in which show business stars discuss their sexual experiences have been confined to adult magazines. It is disturbing to say the least, to find this sort of thing in a magazine aimed at young girls."

Another magazine, it says, gave information on oral sexual practices.

The society accepts the value

WEST EUROPE

EEC supplies of Canadian uranium restored under compromise agreement setting up safeguards

From Michael Hornsby, Brussels, Jan 16

Canada and the EEC signed an agreement here today establishing new safeguards arrangements for the supply of Canadian nuclear material and equipment. An immediate result is the lifting of the ban in force since January last year on Canadian deliveries of natural uranium.

The first deliveries to be authorized under the new arrangements are consignments of 500 tonnes for Britain and 500 tonnes for West Germany. Before the ban was imposed, the Canadians were supplying between 30 to 35 per cent of the EEC's natural uranium requirements.

South Africa and Namibia are the other main sources of supply for the EEC, a cause of some political unease. To diversify the Community's sources, the European Commission has asked the Nine for permission to negotiate supply contracts with Australia, which possesses 20

per cent of the world's low-cost uranium reserves.

The most difficult part of the discussions leading up to today's agreement between Canada and Euratom (the European Atomic Energy Community) concerned the reprocessing (to produce plutonium) and enrichment of Canadian-supplied uranium and its subsequent storage.

Ever since India exploded a nuclear device in 1974 with the aid of Canadian material, the Ottawa Government has been seeking tougher safeguard agreements. In the early stages of the negotiations with the EEC, it demanded that reprocessing, enrichment or storage of Canadian material should be subject to prior consent.

This was never acceptable to the EEC, and the compromise finally agreed provides for a system of prior notification and consultations. This arrangement will be renegotiated in the light of the results of the international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation talks, which could

take another two years complete.

In detail, the EEC will be notified Canada before reprocessing uranium beyond 20 per cent. Reprocessing of uranium fuel in the case of material supplied after December 20, 1974. In addition, Community will "provide" information on planned reprocessing of material transferred before that date.

The agreement also provides that no material supplied under the agreement may be used for the manufacture of any nuclear weapon or for any other military or nuclear explosive device.

The provisions of the agreement will be verified by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Canada, by the agency and Euratom jointly in the Community. France has not yet accepted inspection by the agency until it has no Canadian material will be used in French reactors.

Silkin disappointment over fish proposals

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, Jan 16

Mr John Silkin, the Minister for Agriculture, said here today that his first reaction to the European Commission's new proposals for sharing the EEC's fish catch was "one of disappointment". He acknowledged, however, that Britain had been offered "sizeable increases" in its share of some species.

Speaking to journalists after the first day of a crucial meeting of fisheries ministers of the Nine, Mr Silkin said: "On the important question of access—exclusive access for the United Kingdom vessels within 12 miles of our shores and arrangements to ensure a dominant preference for United Kingdom fishermen in the 50-mile zone—the Commission proposals fall a long way short of what we need."

The proposed allocation of catch quotas, Mr Silkin said, was a negotiable proposition. But Britain had always made clear that quotas by themselves were insufficient without a system of enforcement which would ensure they were respected and also would guarantee British fishermen preferential access up to 50 miles.

What Britain wanted, he said, was a system of control and licensing in the 50-mile zone that would ensure that only a certain number of boats may fish for a certain period of

time, for certain species, at a particular season.

In presenting his revised proposals, Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, EEC Commissioner for Agriculture and Fisheries, was prepared to offer British fishermen rights to 12 miles which are due to be phased out from 1982. But he rejected any formal recognition of a British preference up to 50 miles.

The Commission's case is that the revised catch share-out in effect gives Britain the preference Mr Silkin is demanding. Under the new proposals, British fishermen would be allowed to catch 852,000 tonnes in 1978 in EEC waters, or about 31 per cent of the total Community catch.

If possible catches beyond the Community's 100-mile zone are included, mainly in Norwegian waters, Britain's total catch quota rises to 1,036,000 tonnes, about 24 per cent of the estimated total possible catch for all EEC fishermen in all waters.

British fishermen's representatives were predictably more outspoken than Mr Silkin, describing the Commission's new offer as "totally unacceptable". Nominal increases in the British catch of key species, such as cod and haddock, had been achieved by creating "paper fish" which did not exist, they claimed, rather than by raising the British share of what was actually available.

Dutch Premier criticized for vague speech

From Our Correspondent, Amsterdam, Jan 16

Mr Andries van Agt, the new Dutch Prime Minister, painted a bleak picture before Parliament today of wage restraint and diminishing social security.

The Christian Democrat leader, who has a coalition with the Liberals, based on a shaky majority in Parliament, said that the Government intends to present a policy to combat the country's worsening economic situation at the start of the next parliamentary year next September. Until then the new Cabinet will operate within the guidelines laid down by the former 'left-of-centre' Government.

Mr van Agt adroitly manoeuvred around the most controversial subjects, such as abortion, by either promising further study or the introduction of Bills at some unspecified date.

The new Prime Minister said there would have to be reduction in energy consumption to conserve Holland's natural gas reserves.

He said his Government would pursue a restrictive immigration policy because of the increasing unemployment strain within Dutch society.

Commentators are nearly unanimous in pointing out the vagueness of most of Mr van Agt's statements and the lack of concrete proposals. Today's speech is to be followed by a three-day debate in Parliament but no more of confidence will be put.

Danish boat is arrested off Shetlands

From Our Correspondent, London, Jan 16

A Danish fishing boat was arrested last night for allegedly catching cod, a banned species of fish, in disputed waters off north-east Scotland. The local fishery officer at Lerwick, Shetland, said the boat was the naval vessel HMS Jersey was escorting the boat in the Shetlands harbour.

The Karen Groubberg was boarded about 90 miles from Scapa Flow in an area where Britain has banned poaching.

East Berlin ban on CDU leader leads to protest

From Our Correspondent, Berlin, Jan 16

Inter-German relations are once again being put to the test and there is good reason to believe that East Germany intends to harden its policy vis-à-vis West Germany.

For the third time in eight days, Herr Günter Gaus, the West German envoy to East Germany, protested against East German violations of valid agreements. Similar protests were made in Bonn.

The latest cause for protest was the East German refusal to permit Herr Helmut Kohl, leader of the Bundestag opposition and chairman of the Christian Democratic Union in East Berlin. Herr Kohl and his escorts were told yesterday at the Friedrichstrasse checkpoint after an hour's wait that their

presence was not wanted at the time.

On previous private visits, East Berlin and East German Herr Kohl encountered no difficulties.

After calling on the East German Foreign Minister today, Herr Gaus said that the rejection of Herr Kohl was a grave matter and could impair relations.

Herr Kohl said the incident revealed the East German Government's present state of weakness.

An increase in the number of West Germans held on espionage charges in East Germany is worrying the Bonn authorities. The German news agency including Herr Karl Barnekow who received a 12-year sentence was named yesterday by ADP the East German news agency.

Doctor was killed by patient

For 30 years a husband in mental care harboured the delusion that a doctor had seduced his wife. It was stated at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

"Time and again he told the authorities that he wanted to kill the doctor, and eventually he did so, with a knife. The doctor, it was said, did not appear to have been told of the threats."

William Edward Wardman, aged 70, of High Ryeys Hospital, Meoston, West Yorkshire, a psychiatric hospital, pleaded guilty to the murder but guilty to the manslaughter of Dr William Leslie, aged 65, of Shaftesbury Avenue, Bradford, on the ground of diminished responsibility. The plea to the murder charge was accepted by the court and Mr Wardman was remanded in custody pending the availability of a bed at Broadmoor hospital.

Mr Donald Herrod, QC, for the prosecution, said that despite Mr Wardman's delusion, his wife, Annie, was faithful at all times. Dr Leslie, the Wardman's family doctor, was a happily married, devoted family man.

In 1953 Mr Wardman mentioned to mental hospital authorities for the first time his desire to kill Dr Leslie, saying he believed the doctor had seduced his wife. 10 years previously, Mr Herrod said.

Mr Wardman's case history notes contained later references to 10 more occasions when he mentioned his desire to murder Dr Leslie. The last reference was in 1960. "Although threats in kill were mentioned by Wardman frequently to the authorities, it would seem that nobody passed them on to Dr Leslie," counsel added.

Divorce decree for snail trainer

Mr Christopher Hudson, who said his snail-training hobby came to a standstill because of marriage difficulties, was granted a decree nisi at Brighton Divorce Court yesterday.

Mr Hudson, aged 23, of Hove, petitioned on the grounds of unreasonable conduct by his wife, Deborah, aged 21, who did not contest the action.

Warning over light fittings

Melex Industries, of Croydon, is to advertise in national newspapers warning customers of a fault in some bathroom wall lights it has sold in the United Kingdom in the past 18 months.

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School meals likely to cost more in September

The price of school meals is likely to go up in September but it has not yet been decided by how much. The Department of Education and Science yesterday described as pure speculation reports that the price is to be increased by 10p from the present 25p.

An official said: "We have said in the last two or three White Papers that the Government plans to reduce the subsidy on school meals between now and 1981 to 30 per cent. No decisions have yet been taken as to when the increase will be or by how much."

At present parents pay 25p

a day for each meal; the full cost of preparation and serving is just over 50p. The extra 25p is provided by a subsidy of £280m a year.

Any decision to change the price is normally announced in the Budget, to be implemented in September.

Any increases might lead to the reappearance of rickets and other nutritional diseases, Mr Gwyn Roberts, Labour MP for Croydon, said yesterday. He wants government subsidies increased to reduce the cost of meals.

Mr Roberts said that the 10p increase last September led to a drop of a fifth in the number of meals taken.

Parole system is too slow, probation officers say

By Peter Evans

Criticism of the parole system as too slow, cumbersome, remote and impersonal was made yesterday in evidence to the education, arts and Home Office subcommittee of the Commons expenditure committee by the Conference of Chief Probation Officers.

Among recommendations made by a working party of the conference in a report is that prisoners should have the right to a personal hearing by a new strength committee in a reformed parole system. The working party says that no reasons for refusal of parole are given to the prisoner who applies. That leaves him, his family, and others involved with a persistent source of anxiety and concern.

The system is badly understood by both staff and inmates, the working party's report says. It should be a matter of

real concern that a scheme as important as parole should suffer from so large a credibility gap.

The working party whose report has also gone to the Home Office and Parole Board, suggests that responsibility for the parole system should be divorced from both the prison and probation services.

Although the Home Secretary would retain overall responsibility there would be an independent parole board.

Local review committees would be strengthened, revised and given professional and administrative support from a newly created post, a parole administrator.

The benefit of having such committees with the power in most cases to make immediate decisions would provide a fairer hearing, allow for more informed decisions, and cut the lengthy period of anxiety.

Mine likely in part of national park

Regional report

Ronald Kershaw

Whitby

A public inquiry into an application to develop a potash mine in the Whitby area opens at Whitby on February 7. Whitby Potash, a subsidiary of Consolidated Gold Fields, is appealing against a refusal of planning permission by the North York Moors National Park Committee. Without having the authority to preempt the decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment, it may be said with some conviction that the long-run national park committee is "on a hiding to nothing".

Under the Local Government Act, 1972, the power to determine planning applications within the national park had to be delegated to the national park committee by North Yorkshire County Council. One of the exceptions to this rule is a "straddling application", where only part of a project intrudes into a national park. In those circumstances the county council must decide whether to consider planning applications or delegate that authority to the national park committee.

The county council has in the past taken the latter course hence the committee's authority to reject the Whitby

creating 200 new jobs. The local authority will receive an estimated £250,000 in rates each year and there will be import saving to the national balance of payments of more than £30m a year on potash alone.

The environmentalists protest that the mine at Egton Moor, and an associated refinery at Saltaire, on the outskirts of Whitby, will detract from the tourist attraction of the fishing port. They point to the potash workings from the mine out to sea and recall that an "escape" at the existing Cleveland Potash mine at Boulby, near Whitby, allowed sodium chloride to get into a freshwater beck, killing fish and organisms on which they feed.

Mrs Jean Greenan, a councillor, says the refinery will be the block with a chimney twice as high. She accuses the local authority of being interested in the "quick penny" rather than the Whitby environment. Councillors, she says, have been mesmerized by the prospect of new local jobs.

At least a dozen organizations jointly or individually are contesting the appeal

Giscard attempt to halt bickering

From Ian Murray, Paris, Jan 16

President Giscard d'Estaing attempted to stop the bickering among the different parties that make up the Government coalition with a sweeping appeal to unity over lunch today. He had invited 80 of the party leaders who have been most involved in the Government since his election in May 1974.

He told his guests that the luncheon invitation had been made for two reasons: first that they should get to know each other; second because they had joined in the work carried out over the past three and a half years.

Among the guests was M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, who said the previous evening on television that he was going to tell the President of his grave anxieties about the future of the Government and, in consequence, of France itself.

Because the three other main groupings in the Government majority—Republicans, Centrists and Radicals—had agreed a list of candidates between them, not including the Gaullists, M. Chirac called their behaviour "disloyal and dangerous" and tore up the electoral pact between them of agreed single candidates in almost 120 constituencies.

Since the leaders of these "disloyal and dangerous" parties were also at the luncheon the President had to choose his words carefully in an attempt to achieve the necessary appearance of unity among his guests.

"The decisive question facing the French is that of a choice of society," he said. "It must be settled once and for all in the first round. It then remains in the second round, to choose the men most capable of carrying out this fundamental choice. This is just the opposite of what is happening."

Candidates of the majority standing in the same constituency in the first round of the election must not forget that

they were not opponents but partners who would have to support each other in the second round.

They certainly had to snuff out their own party programmes and policy, and the voter, with his natural common sense, would understand that those programmes were similar to essentials.

The majority had to show itself more united. Although local ambitions and antagonisms could not be wiped out, it could still give the appearance that they were not the most important things at stake.

All attacks by one majority party against another were harmful. "Whoever wants to win an electoral consultation must seek out the deep feeling of the country. Today that is the call to unity."

The president said that the number of "primaries" within the majority would be the highest for 20 years and he saw this as being a happy evolution towards direct democracy. "The role of the elector grows since it is up to him to choose between the candidates of the majority."

WEST EUROPE



President Kekkonen, of Finland, who sought support for his foreign policy in yesterday's election.

Finnish poll turnout under 70 pc

From Olli Viikari, Helsinki, Jan 16

Unofficial indications suggest that fewer than 70 per cent of the voters turned out in Finland's two-day presidential election which ended tonight. The reason for the low vote is that President Kekkonen, aged 77, has been certain of re-election.

The President who has been in power since 1956, was supported by the six biggest parties, the Social Democrats, the Conservatives, the Communists, the Centre Party, the Liberals, and the Swedish People's Party.

The main importance of the election was to give strong backing to President Kekkonen's foreign policy which emphasizes neutrality and good relations with both the Soviet Union and the West.

Of the parties supporting Dr Kekkonen only the Conservatives are outside the present coalition Government led by Mr Kalevi Sorsa, a Social Democrat. The Government will resign when the President's new term begins on March 1. The new coalition will presumably be formed on the same basis, but some observers feel that the Conservatives might be included to reward them for supporting President Kekkonen and also to share the burden of the unpleasant decisions necessary if Finland is to recover from its recession. This has led to record unemployment of nearly 8 per cent.

The other candidates were Mr Raimo Westerholm, of the Christian League; Mr Ahti Salonen, of the Constitutional Party; Mr Veikko Vennamo, of the Rural Party; and Mr Eino Hakkala, of the Unity Party. All these parties are relatively new splinter groups formed to oppose either President Kekkonen or old established parties backing him.

Jailed terrorists 'never discussed suicide'

Stuttgart, Jan 16.—Ingrid Möller, a convicted terrorist, denied today that she and three other Red Army Group members ever discussed committing suicide.

Giving evidence before Baden-Württemberg state investigators, Möller, aged 30, disputed police allegations that she, Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin and Jan-Carl Raspe made a suicide pact at Stammheim prison here.

She gave evidence calmly for 10 minutes in the first public hearing at Stammheim prison since the death of her three terrorist comrades. But guards dragged her out of the court when she tried to hold talks with her two lawyers afterwards.

Baader and Raspe were found dead, fatal pistol wounds and missile was found lodged on Oct 18, a few hours after West German commandos freed 85 hostages on board a Lufthansa plane at Mogadishu airport in Somalia. Four Arab terrorists had held the aircraft and attempted to force the authorities to release the terrorists.

Fraülein Möller told a 23-member panel of state legislators at the court in the prison: We came to the conclusion

that suicide was no part of the Red Army Group politics." Möller said: The trial of a former army supplier to the Baader-Meinhof gang, Rolf Pöbel, which opened here today, was adjourned in the morning at the request of his counsel to find out if the accused was fit to stand trial.

Herr Pöbel, who was absent from the proceedings because of his "disturbing behaviour", claims that West Germany has no right to try him since he was released from prison in March 1975, with four other prisoners in exchange for the freeing of a kidnapped West Berlin Christian Democrat leader. They were flown to South Yemen. Herr Pöbel was re-arrested in Greece in July 1976 and extradited to West Germany.

He is now facing extortion charges in connection with the abduction—Agence France Presse and AP.

Berne explosion: Responsibility for an explosion that damaged the prosecutor's office at the high court in Berne last week has been claimed by a group named after a young man shot during the 1976 visit to Berlin of the Shah of Iran (our Geneva Correspondent writes).

Metro bombs put police in Madrid on alert

Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 16

Police patrols were increased today after two bomb explosions, this morning and yesterday's fire-bomb attacks in Barcelona, in which as many as four people may have died.

One of the bombs in Madrid was a section of track of the underground railway in a suburb, the other damaged the dance hall of the offices of a company which owns the Jerground. No one was hurt.

paid a most elegant supper at La Scala, burnt to the ground in Barcelona yesterday when four men and a woman were killed and three others injured. At least one employee and three other people are missing. Losses were destroyed.

estimated at about £3m. Several suspects were detained by the police today, according to reliable sources.

An anonymous telephone call to a Barcelona newspaper said the illegal, Maoist movement Frap (the Patriotic Antifascist Revolutionary Front) was responsible for the blast but Frap has issued a disclaimer.

In other fire bomb incidents in Barcelona yesterday, gangs of youths, said by police sources to be members of the Maoist PCI (Independent Communist Party), attacked a police station, three police vehicles, a bank, a municipal office, an office of the internal revenue service and two policemen on foot.

They also commandeered and damaged three buses, which they parked across streets to block traffic. Police arrested women of 27 carrying three bottles of inflammable liquid.

Opposition backs Pares Cabinet policy switch

Lisbon, Jan 16.—The Social Democrats, Portugal's leading opposition party, have agreed to help Dr Soares, the current Prime Minister, to form a government, provided the Communists are excluded.

Monaco shows France how to win a poll

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 16

The French Government must have looked cautiously today at Monaco's general election results. The majority candidates, led by M. Jean-Claude Rey, swept the board, taking all 18 seats on the National Council without needing a second ballot.

The Communist trade unionists lost their only seat. The Socialist Party made no impression; and the tax inspector who was standing as an independent will have to go back to inspecting taxes.

The only chance of breaking the National Democratic Union Party's monopoly will be if the civil court on Friday upholds the defeated candidates' claim that there was a misconduct on the split votes.

Only the 3,647 true Monégasques can vote in the National Council elections, which are held every five years. The council has powers to approve or reject the Government's budget and other laws submitted to it.

OVERSEAS

Dr Waldheim hopeful about resumption of Cyprus negotiations

From Mario Modiano, Athens, Jan 16

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, arrived in Athens today on the last lap of a tour to explore the chances of resuming the Cyprus negotiations. He had a meeting tonight with Mr Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister.

Dr Waldheim, who has already been to Ankara and Nicosia, indicated that the prospects for a resumption of a "meaningful and constructive" dialogue were quite good.

Mr Bülent Ecevit, the new Turkish Prime Minister, had promised to produce concrete proposals on both the territorial and constitutional aspects of the Cyprus problem if his Government obtained a vote of confidence tomorrow. Mr Ecevit had said it would take him about two weeks to work out the proposals.

parties on a date for reconvening the talks.

The idea of using Dr Waldheim to convey the proposals is clearly designed to protect the next initiative on Cyprus from hasty or negative reactions that the emotional appeal of the problem might evoke.

Friends of Greece and of Cyprus are urging their leaders to avoid precipitate decisions even if the forthcoming Turkish proposals fall short of their expectations, in the hope of improving them in the inevitable bargaining that will ensue.

Dr Waldheim will find the Greek leaders sceptical about Ecevit's recent promising statements. Mr Karamanlis told an interviewer recently that he hoped Mr Ecevit would "soon prove that his daed's marched his words".

The Greek leaders cannot forget, of course, that it was Mr Ecevit who, in 1974, initiated the policy of confrontation both in Cyprus and in the Aegean and who last summer authorized the colonization of Famagusta.

Our Nicosia Correspondent writes: Before leaving Cyprus for Athens Dr Waldheim told a press conference he had the feeling that "things were on the right track", and that he was cautiously optimistic the long-deadlocked talks could resume by March.

Mr Ecevit set to win vital confidence vote

From Sinan Fisek, Ankara, Jan 16

Mr Bülent Ecevit's Government is facing a confidence vote which it appears certain to obtain from the National Assembly tomorrow. The rapidly deteriorating law and order situation is the most urgent point on the National Assembly's agenda.

Mr Ecevit is expected to get at least 226 votes, the absolute majority in the National Assembly, despite a spate of so far unfounded rumours of last-minute defections.

A drive against political terrorism which has had an unprecedented upsurge since Mr Ecevit was appointed Prime Minister in New Year's Day will be the first issue to take up. The violence has left 36 dead and over 100 wounded in the first half of this month alone.

Most political observers believe that right-wing terrorists trying to damage the Ecevit Government's credibility are responsible for the growing

number of deaths, despite statements to the contrary by retired Colonel Alpaskan Turkes, who heads the extreme right-wing Nationalist Action Party.

"The terrorism and the attacks are the work of communist groups who wish to destroy the state and divide the nation", Mr Turkes said in an interview published today in the independent weekly *Yenikil*.

But the figures speak for themselves: of the 36 people killed so far this year, only five were rightists. Almost all the bomb attacks were aimed at leftist or progressive organizations and people. A police officer, acting as a bodyguard for Mr Turkes, has been arrested for hurling a bomb at the home of a deputy mayor in the town of Afisli.

Mr Irfan Özyaylani, a former Air Force general who is Turkey's top Interior Minister, is apparently taking into consideration rumours of police sympathy for Mr Turkes's followers by keeping in close contact with the gendarmerie.

Cyanide risk to villagers in earthquake zone

Tokyo, Jan 16.—The casualty toll from Saturday's earthquakes rose today to 21 dead and 111 injured, more than 25,000 villagers living along the Kano River, on Izu peninsula, faced a cyanide poisoning threat.

Bushfires force Australians to shoot stock

Melbourne, Jan 16.—Two people died and 13 were injured in bush fires which still raged across Victoria today, forcing farmers to shoot thousands of cows and sheep on charred pasture land. Hundreds of people have been evacuated.

A dam weakened by the earthquakes on Saturday released sludge contaminated with cyanide from a gold mine into a Kano tributary, killing its fish and threatening an ecological disaster, health authorities said today. Intake of water from the Kano was stopped by the two cities that distribute it to households.

The waste has already reached the Pacific into which the Kano flows, but so far no case of poisoning from fish has been reported.

Police said the earthquakes had also damaged 2,920 houses and 110 landsheds in Izu. Seismologists expect more shocks for a month but no serious earthquakes.—UPI and Agence France-Presse.

Most of the blazes were contained early today, but senior state fire officers said that because of drought the whole of Victoria was "ready to explode".

At Bairnsdale firefighters battled over a five-mile front to stop flames which were travelling at about 10 mph.—Reuter.

New 'hot line' uses Soviet and US satellites

Moscow, Jan 16.—A new "hot line" went into service today, linking the Kremlin and the White House by satellite instead of the less reliable landline in use for the past 14 years.

The new direct communications link between the American and Soviet leaders uses a satellite system from each country which should eliminate the failures of the old link, set up after the 1963 Cuban missile crisis.

From today, the hot line teleprinters in Moscow and Washington are sending their hourly test messages—usually non-political material from magazines or books—through the Molniya and Intelsat systems.

The Soviet Molniya system uses four satellites moving successively into the "view" of ground stations near Moscow and at Fort Detrick, Maryland.

The commercial Intelsat operates through the American-built stations near the Ukrainian city of Lvov and Etam, West Virginia.

The hot line, designed as a means of reducing the chances of nuclear confrontation at a time of crisis, operates in two languages. Messages from the White House are transmitted in English, while Moscow sends its messages in Russian on to a cyrillic script teleprinter in Washington.

The text, automatically coded and decoded at each end, is then translated for the two presidents.

The Intelsat-Molniya system, which has the advantage of independence from facilities in a third country, began tests in March last year.—Reuter.

London-California for £100

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Jan 16

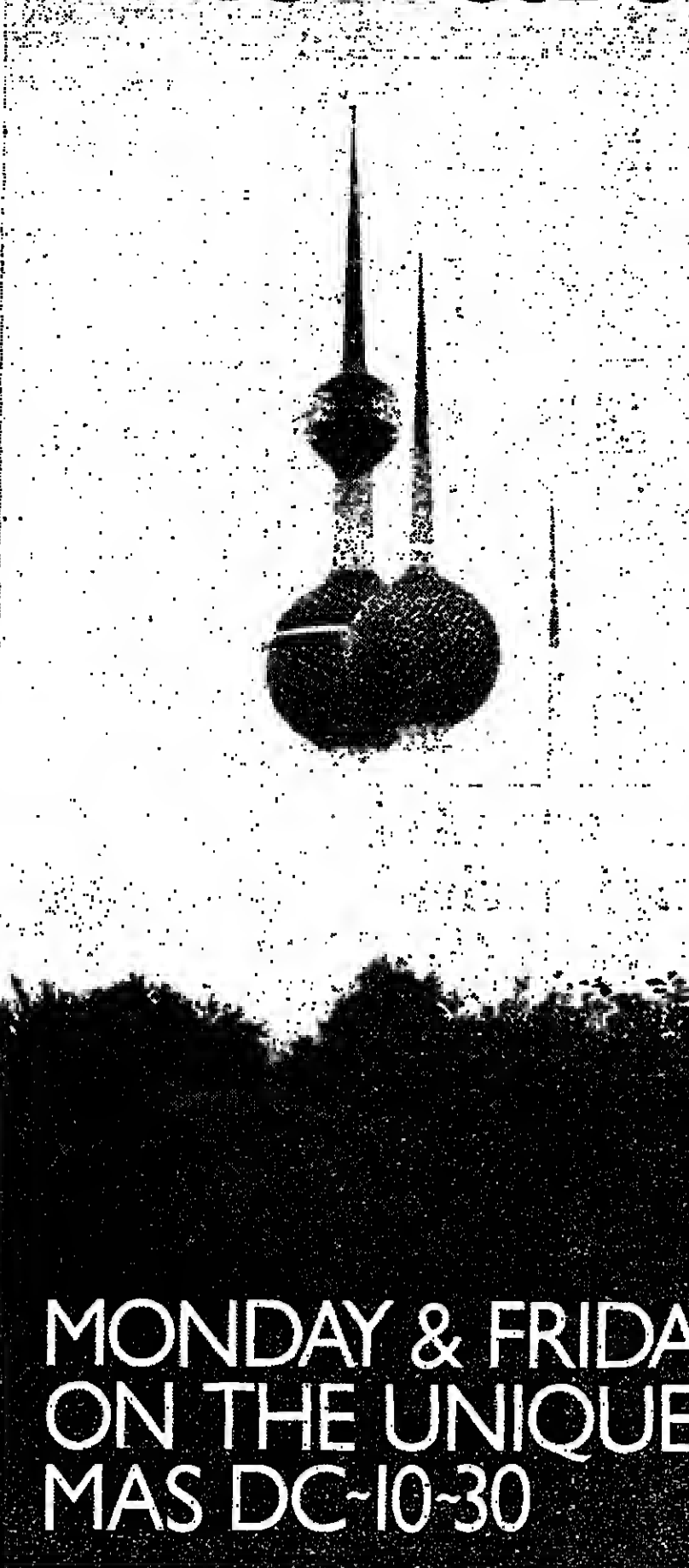
Trans International Airlines, one of the largest charter airlines, has applied to the American Civil Aeronautics Board to operate what it calls a "Skybus" service between London and Los Angeles. The lowest one-way off-season fare would be \$199 (£100), rising to \$239 at busy times of the year.

The lowest standard economy fare between the cities is \$486, but lower fares are available on charter flights. The Skybus service would be scheduled and would use wide-bodied DC-10 aircraft, which are used on the Laker Skytrain service between London and New York.

Unlike Skytrain, the Skybus would allow passengers to make advance reservations at any time. It would also offer a full meal service. If it gets the licence to operate the service, Trans International says it would fly four times a week in the high season and twice a week in the off season. The company has also applied to operate a similar service between Brussels and a number of American cities.

It is disagreement: The airlines within the International Air Transport Association (Iata) have failed to agree on a new fares structure across the north Atlantic, and the tariff will now be established by governments (our Air Correspondent writes).

Kuwait



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OVERSEAS

Resumption of Rhodesia talks delayed as parties seek 'blocking mechanism' compromise

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Jan 16

The expected resumption of settlement talks between the Rhodesian Government and three black organizations was delayed today as the various parties independently attempted to thrash out a compromise on the question of applying a "blocking mechanism" in a future parliament.

Last week, Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and the three black leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Nkomo and Chief Jeremiah Chirau, agreed on representation in a future parliament on the basis of 72 per cent black and 28 per cent white. However, the talks subsequently stalled on how the white members would be elected and how long a blocking mechanism would apply for.

According to nationalist sources, Mr Smith is demanding that no amendments to the constitution could be made unless supported by 78 members out of a 100-member parliament (ie, 72 black MPs and six whites). The nationalists have said that it should be only 73 (ie, 72 blacks and one white).

Mr Smith wants the blocking mechanism to operate for 15

years. The black leaders have said the duration should be only eight years or two parliaments, whichever is the longer. It is still uncertain when the leaders of the four delegations will resume their talks. Mr Smith said today he thought they would continue "later in this week".

This means that the resumption of talks will coincide with two important external developments affecting Mr Smith's attempts to reach a settlement with the internally based black organizations.

One is Nigeria's declared intention to place before the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday a resolution condemning the internal settlement talks. The other is the meeting which is expected to take place in London between Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, and the co-leaders of the Patriotic Front guerrilla organization, Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe.

The settlement talks came under strong attack from Mr Nkomo's Zapu organization at the weekend with a declaration in the *Zimbabwe People's Voice*, the official organ of Zapu published in Lusaka, that the Patriotic Front would continue its guerrilla war if Mr

Smith and the criminal clique of three finalise their conspiracy. The three internal black leaders, the magazine said, must be "crushed ruthlessly".

Rejecting the Patriotic Front's threats, Mr Smith said in a statement that he supported the internal talks "with all my heart, soul and mind".

The Front, he added, was digging its own grave. While the internal and external leaders have continued their war of words, the war on the ground has taken an increasingly heavy toll. Combined operations headquarters announced tonight that a band of guerrillas had hatched a death march across six forestry workers on a farm compound at Penabazanga, near the Mozambique border. A black nurse was tortured, it claimed.

Patriotic Front meetings: Crucial talks between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo started in Maputo today on whether to accept Dr Owen's invitation. They were also expected to review the Rhodesian situation in the light of apparent progress made by the "internal" settlement talks and to discuss possible joint military training programmes.—Agence France-Press.

President's 'village' charts an African way of life in which solidarity replaces socialism

From Charles Hargrove Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast Jan 16

For years, President Houphouët-Boigny had been telling M Giscard d'Estaing: "What I am, what I think, one cannot really understand without coming to my village, to Yamoussoukro."

The French President in his speech last Friday at the magnificent modern marble and gilt town hall completed just in time for his visit, rightly said that he felt "the emotion of a man who enters a place where the secret of a nation is enshrined."

"The secret of Yamoussoukro", he went on, "is that of the 'village', the base and foundation of the social reality and personality of Africa... the village, which remains your point of reference, where you come to meditate whenever great issues arise for the future of your people."

This "village" is in fact an imposing town, with huge straight avenues, brightly lit at night, leading nowhere but

time being, and fine public buildings sprung almost overnight from the surrounding jungle. But the spirit, as the President explained to me, is and must remain that of a village.

At 73, President Houphouët-Boigny, widely described as the "old sage of Africa", gives an impression, as a French colleague aptly put it, of "impassioned serenity".

"I am a peasant", he said. "The people and nation we have become, we have done so as peasants. My main concern is that my people should remain a nation of farmers and break loose from the ills of town life. For many years to come, the prosperity of the Ivory Coast will rest principally, as it does now, on agriculture."

"Our aristocracy is landed", he went on. "I myself keep a plot of land; and I go and till the soil from time to time with my own hands. So does my sister, who is 76."

"I told a group of university graduates recently: 'Go and get yourselves a piece of land. There is enough for everyone in this country. Then you will not be cut off from your roots, from the base.' My greatest



President Houphouët-Boigny: the 'Old Sage of Africa'.

satisfaction is that the advice has been widely followed. ... By giving the Ivory Coast peasant the facilities of the town—water, light, drainage, dispensaries, schools, cinemas and so on—I hope to keep them on the land. Yamoussoukro is a symbol and an example; a link and a crossroads between the Ashantia in the east from

Ghana, and the aborigines in the west; between modernism and tradition. Here I can make experiments which will be a model for the whole nation."

What succeeded here, thanks to mechanization, could succeed in the less fertile bush, thanks to mechanization, and it will keep on the land young Ivorians.

"We, the people of developing countries, cannot always appeal to international organizations for help if within our own frontiers we do nothing about the poorer regions. In the Ivory Coast, the peasant of the south has been called upon to make many sacrifices for the north. The resources of the National Cocoa Fund provide the money for the development of the north. What I am trying to do is to turn the north into a granary for the Ivory Coast, and perhaps, for Africa," he said.

He wanted to create dozens of Yamoussoukros throughout the country. "Peasants living in an urbanized, not urban, context—that is where the future lies for the Ivory Coast."

He explained something of the spirit of Yamoussoukro. It is based on a natural form of collectivism which has nothing to do with Marxism. In traditional village, when someone needs a hut, the whole village helps build it. But when it is completed, it belongs to the man who lives in it. It applies the same principle to the whole country, the principle of solidarity and private property.

The Ivory Coast was the country with the boldest social policy. It built more schools and more hospitals than countries which were allied to another ideology. Education was free, so was medical care. The peasants received even when the same price for the produce. Others would call socialism. He called it solidarity. He turned naturally from it to a wider world scene. "Development of Africa is linked to stability and security," asserted. "Who threatens us? Russia. Western Europe cannot ensure its own security. How could we Africans allow a European philosophical added: "In Europe, we kill the heart. What Africans can give to Europe is the discovery of a new form of human relationship."

Evident US pressure made Israel think again

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Jan 16

The State Department refuses to comment officially on the dispute over the agenda for the Jerusalem conference, but it is clear that it was the pressure on Israel to reach a compromise.

Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, postponed his departure for Israel on Saturday night in what was apparently a gesture of disapproval of the Israeli position.

The United States sees its role as mediator between Israel and the Arabs. All Mr Vance's considerable experience as a lawyer and diplomat will be needed.

President Carter made it clear at a press conference last week that the United States takes Egypt's side on the question of the settlements in occupied territory. It considers them illegal and believes that they should be abandoned. On the other hand, Mr Carter now takes the view, after some vacillation, that there should be no Palestinian state on the West Bank.

Mr Vance will suggest that a temporary arrangement for the West Bank and Gaza be settled immediately, since the long-term question of a final settlement might prove impossible to solve. Since this temporary arrangement would not include the right of self-determination, it might well resemble Mr Begin's proposal.

This arrangement would last for a limited period, say five years. As a first step, a declaration of principle would be issued by Israel and Egypt. The Americans hope that it would be sufficiently acceptable to moderate Arab opinion to permit the Jordanians and some representative Palestinians to join the Jerusalem talks. Beirut: The Middle East News Agency said today in a dispatch from Amman that Mr Vance would go to Jordan after visiting Israel and Egypt. Mr Vance was expected to visit Egypt on Thursday or Friday.—UPI.

Home again

Algiers, Jan 16.—President Boumedienne left Algeria after a 13-day tour to 10 Middle East countries, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

Ethiopia accused of preparing invasion

Mogadishu, Jan 16.—Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and its allies are poised to invade Somalia by land, sea and air, Mr Abdel-Kader, a Somali Minister, said here today.

He said the Soviet and Cuban Defence Ministers were secretly in Addis Ababa, where the invasion plan was being masterminded, and the Kremlin policy-makers and their Warsaw Pact allies were responsible for coordinating the invasion.

The Minister appealed to the world at large, "especially friendly and peaceful countries, fully to support Somalia to quell this sinister invasion".

He recalled that President Carter had recently called for peace initiatives in the Horn of Africa and had expressed growing concern about the spread of nuclear weapons and Soviet and Cuban troops pouring into Ethiopia.

Mr Said Hassan said the first attack was planned against the Somali liberation movements fighting in Ethiopia's eastern and southern provinces. Then Somalia, Djibouti and other neighbouring countries were to be invaded.

He claimed that it was intended to occupy strategic areas of Somalia in an attempt to change by force the political

system of the Somali Democratic Republic. Nairobi: Earlier *Dunab*, the newspaper of the Somali guerrilla movements, said that Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, had joined General Raul Castro, the Cuban Armed Forces Minister, in Addis Ababa.

It was also reported in Nairobi that President Siad Barre told the ambassadors of Britain, the United States, France, West Germany and Italy in Mogadishu that an invasion of his country was imminent. Addis Ababa: Ethiopian troops killed seven "aggressive Somali soldiers" in a clash last week between the towns of Bedele and Awassa, in the southern province of Sidamo, the national news agency said.

Official reports also said that 19 insurgents mostly members of the outlawed Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, were killed and 300 others arrested in the capital at the weekend.

Beirut: The Lebanese newspaper *Al-Nahar* said the Egyptian People's Liberation Front had retracted a statement the new paper published yesterday, quoting a spokesman as saying Egyptian and Sovietist guerrillas were holding Soviet and Cuban prisoners.—Agence France-Press, Reuters and UPI.

Pretoria 'intent on staging bogus Namibia poll'

By David Spanier Diplomatic Correspondent

The extent of South Africa's military presence in South-West Africa (Namibia) showed that "an all-out campaign" was being mounted to weaken the South-West Africa Peoples' Organization (Swapo), its representative in London claimed yesterday.

The South African objective, Mr Peter Kariakwu said, was to fragment the movement and then stage "a bogus election". Swapo was confident it could win an election, but would participate only on condition that South African troops were withdrawn from the country first, he added.

On the evidence of a new film on Namibia, made by an Israeli team, he claimed that South Africa kept a force of between 12,000 and 15,000 soldiers "along the border alone", and was training tribal armies to fight Swapo forces.

Humphrey mourners brave cold

From Trevor Fishlock St Paul, Minnesota, Jan 16

It was a measure of Hubert Humphrey's ideas, actions, warmth and courage that when his body was returned home to Minnesota for funeral and burial today, great crowds waited through a bitter night and freezing day to bid farewell in an astonishing display of affection for the Senator who died on Friday.

A few days before his death Mr Humphrey asked the pastor of the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St Paul that his funeral be a celebration for the people of Minnesota. And so it was. It was an ecumenical service, with President Carter and Vice-President Walter Mondale leading the homage, which included Mr Humphrey's

favourite Brahms and Bach pieces, arthems and spirituals. Although the Senator had requested that there be no eulogies, saying there had been enough for two lifetimes, the two-hour funeral service contained several tributes, some of them long, from political and religious leaders.

Mr Carter talked of Mr Humphrey's concern for people all over the world, and his work for peace. Mr Mondale remarked on the Senator's final return to Minnesota, "the place where his idealism flourished". Mr Mondale said: "The essence of Hubert Humphrey was his ability to touch an individual's life and make that life better, and more joyful. He loved people in the mass, and loved each human being

in an almost saintly way. He had time for everybody which is why he was always late." People drove from all over the snowy state to file past the bier. Some carried photographs of Mr Humphrey and showed each other letters and notes they had received from him.

Many said they had come because of the Senator's work for civil rights, for his moral stands and because of his concern for peace. After the service Mr Humphrey's coffin was carried over the Mississippi to Minneapolis, the city that elected him mayor in 1945, and where his political career began. In Lakeview Cemetery, with only relatives and close friends in attendance, he was buried beneath the trees.

In brief

Ford's to stay in S Africa

Cape Town, Jan 16.—The leaders of Ford and BMW said today that their companies planned to stay and expand in the South African market despite pressures to withdraw because of apartheid.

Mr Henry Ford, chairman of Ford, said after meeting Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister: "We are going to stay here in South Africa." In Pretoria, Herr Eberhard von Kuenheim, chairman of BMW, echoed Mr Ford's statement.

Bolivian aides quit

La Paz, Bolivia, Jan 16.—The two top civilian advisers of General Hugo Banzer, the Bolivian head of state, are reported to have resigned as the Government stiffened its resistance to a widespread hunger strike called in support of a demand for a political amnesty.

Aid for Punjab

Mrs Judith Hart, Minister for Overseas Development, has approved a grant of £8,600,000 to Pakistan to finance part of a project to Punjab province aimed at improving water use. A grant of £1,563,000 for education in Botswana has also been approved.

Soviet manoeuvres

Moscow, Jan 16.—Soviet land and air forces totalling 25,000 men will take part in exercises in Byelorussia early next month, the Ministry of Defence announced. The manoeuvres, codenamed *Berezina*, will be held in the area of Minsk, Orsha and Polotsk.

British mother shot dead in Zambian town

Lusaka, Jan 16.—Gunmen shot dead a British mother of four, Mrs Anne Caveney, aged 37, as she was leaving a cinema in the Zambian mining town of Lumumba last Saturday.

Mrs Caveney's husband, Terence, also aged 37, escaped unhurt. The family has been in Zambia for only eight months. They previously lived in Wales. Mr Caveney is a senior accountant with Roan Consolidated Mines.

A spokesman for the company said the couple had just entered their car when three gunmen wrenched open the door. Mr Caveney forced it shut. The gunmen fired through the windscreen and ran off.—Reuters.

Furs from Soviet cats and dogs help exports

By Gabriel Ronay

The large quantities of cat and dog skins offered for sale by the Soviet Union used to belong to much loved domestic pets.

Advertisements placed in American trade journals by the Soviet Amtorg Trading Corporation to attract furriers to the forthcoming international fur auction in Leningrad have focused attention on some strange practices by Soyuzpushnina, the Soviet fur-trading organization.

Among the skins offered for sale by Soyuzpushnina this year are white fox, seal, squirrel, hamster and "domestic cat". Of the last-named, 10,000 pelts are being placed at the disposal of discerning buyers. The advertisements also list in the "raw skins" section

Callaghan plea for aid to harness Ganges

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

Britain would play a part in any international project to harness the waters of the rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra, Mr Callaghan told the Commons yesterday.

In a statement on his return from official visits to the sub-continent the Prime Minister told MPs that he had discussed the idea with President Zia ul Rahman of Bangladesh and Mr Desai, the Indian Prime Minister. He said that such a project would require international co-operation on a gigantic scale to overcome the physical, financial and political problems and might take 20 years to complete. But because of the benefits that would result, including the possibility of growing three crops a year in an area where only one could be grown at present, Mr Callaghan urged the governments concerned to agree on an early study of the scheme.

Britain, he said, would gladly lend experts and contribute financially towards a feasibility study. This was an idea to catch the imagination and challenge the resources of the world.

Mr Callaghan also pointed out that the goodwill towards Britain in the sub-continent, and the importance attached there to good relations with it, created good prospects for British firms.

Historic ties: He said he was deeply moved by the affection felt for Britain, especially in India (the Press Association reports). Parliamentary report, page 12

India acts to stop smuggling of currency

From Our Own Correspondent Delhi, Jan 16

The Desai Government tonight withdrew high denomination bank notes from circulation in a move to curb illegal transfers, black marketeering and smuggling.

A presidential decree withdrawing 1,000-rupee (about £67), 5,000-rupee and 10,000-rupee notes was issued after a secret Cabinet meeting earlier in the day.

People holding the high currency notes will be able to exchange them on Wednesday and Thursday after completing a declaration explaining how the notes came into their possession.

Solar energy to benefit Third World proposed

From Richard Wigg Delhi, Jan 16

Direct use of the sun's rays offers the best answer to the energy needs of Third World countries because most of them are in or near the tropics, an international solar energy congress was told at its opening here today.

Dr George Lof, a solar energy expert from Colorado State University, called in his address for the setting up of an international solar energy commission financed by the world's industrial countries with the aim of developing existing solar energy techniques for developing countries.

The principal need for solar energy lay in the Third World because many poor countries faced a shortage of conventional

energy and needed to reduce imports of oil or coal, he said.

Taking the case of India "where solar energy is available in plenty", Dr Lof suggested that solar power might meet the needs over the next decade of remote villages where it would be prohibitive to put in conventional electricity lines. The villages could then harness their own energy.

Mr Desai, the Indian Prime Minister, emphasized in opening the 50-nation congress that the need was to develop inexhaustible source of energy for the benefit of entire mankind. He went on: "Solar energy is one field which a country in the world can monopolize, as is the case with atomic energy."

People determined to fulfil their plans are, in spite of the feelings of the population, converting cruelly into a business proposition and are actually pushing the young towards crime. After the appearance, an advertisement in the *Sir* press, the youthful lovers of easy money began parading neighbours and stranger courtyards, where they could easily grab flammable pets. The have shown little interest in surgery," the newspaper said.

As for dog skins, the story is just as ugly, to judge from protest letters. Under the guise of "prophylactic pet control" tens of thousands of dogs are rounded up from time to time providing a steady source of pelts.

The Soviet Government new paper *Izvestia*. "People determined to fulfil their plans are, in spite of the feelings of the population, converting cruelly into a business proposition and are actually pushing the young towards crime. After the appearance, an advertisement in the *Sir* press, the youthful lovers of easy money began parading neighbours and stranger courtyards, where they could easily grab flammable pets. The have shown little interest in surgery," the newspaper said.

As for dog skins, the story is just as ugly, to judge from protest letters. Under the guise of "prophylactic pet control" tens of thousands of dogs are rounded up from time to time providing a steady source of pelts.

Some years ago these "cesses" by the local representatives of Soyuzpushnina even brought a warning from

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Football

Chiedoie's skill puts Norwich in no position for reprieve

By Stuart Jones
Norwich City, 19th in the league, found Orient, walloping in the second division, too much of a handful in the FA Cup at Carrow Road last night. The third round replay was decided by a lone goal from Chiedoie, who scored through the legs of goalkeeper Rovers.

After a rash of early shots, half a dozen within a dozen minutes, the pattern of the first half was set. Norwich looked left to right, and right to left, and then, through the legs of goalkeeper Rovers, Chiedoie scored. The goal was a simple one, but it was the only one. Norwich's only chance was a header from the corner, but it was blocked by Rovers.

Chiedoie's skill was the key to Norwich's success. He scored through the legs of goalkeeper Rovers, who was in no position to make a save. Chiedoie's skill was the key to Norwich's success.



Neil Cantwell: An offer he could not refuse.

Hardaker aims to stop the 'US cowboys'

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent
An official transfer system involving British and North American Soccer League (NASL) clubs is being set up by Alan Hardaker, the Football League's chief executive, and the NASL's commissioner, Phil Woosnam, in London yesterday.

Mr. Hardaker said: "What we are trying to do is to stop the 'US cowboys' from coming in and taking our players. We want to stop them from coming in and taking our players. We want to stop them from coming in and taking our players."

A cruel sea hits Royal Cinque Ports

By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent
The old course probably never needed its friends more than it does now.

At the beginning of the week only the first three greens had water on them, and the worst-hit was the third where the top half of the flagstick protruded like a tooth from the water. From the high and dry pulpit of the clubhouse, the shot to the green was a cruel one, but a pond in front of the clubhouse, and the appearance of a well-designed island green, indeed, the general impression of the course was as though the sea had been there for 40 years on which seawater has invaded the course. So far as the course is concerned, this is a disaster, but it has struck one month earlier than the worst of the others, in 1938.

Rugby Union

Paid ranks could be the answer

Cape Town, Jan. 16.—South African rugby officials are considering professionalisation in the sport here in an attempt to break back into the international arena. The officials are considering professionalisation in the sport here in an attempt to break back into the international arena.

Cotton could miss Wales as well as France game

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
England's prospects for their first rugby international of the season, against France in Paris on Saturday, suffered the nastiest possible jolt yesterday when Peter Cotton, their tight head prop, was injured during a practice game at Twickenham on Sunday.

Tennis

ITF to pick world champions

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
A year hence, panels of judges appointed by the International Tennis Federation will select official world champions for both sexes. Their deliberations will be based on results in seven events for each sex. These are the "grand slam" tournaments (those of France, Wimbledon, the United States and Australia), the men's and women's team championships for the Davis Cup and Federation Cup, the climactic tournaments of the international circuit (the men's Grand Prix Masters and the women's Colgate series championships) and the play-off series which end two early-season circuits—the men's World Championship Tennis and the women's Virginia Slims circuit.

Wrexham could be aiming at No 3 goalkeeper

Peter McDermott, Liverpool's third string goalkeeper, may stand between Wrexham and a place in the semi-final round of the Football League Cup. McDermott, whose last match was on November 12, has been alerted because of his excellent work in the Liverpool goal.

Early goal puts Southampton in right mood

After 210 minutes of goalless FA Cup football, Southampton struck quickly, with a goal by Grimsby Town, a goal by Peter Croker, after four minutes put Southampton in the right mood. The goal was a simple one, but it was the only one.

Greenwood's meeting

Ron Greenwood will meet his England manager, Sir Alf Ramsey, on Monday, January 16, at 10.30. The meeting will be held at the FA headquarters in London.

American football

Dallas Cowboys shoot to Superbowl win
New Orleans, Jan. 16.—The Dallas Cowboys football team won their first Superbowl victory over the Denver Broncos in the Superbowl before 75,400 people in the Superdome.

Fitzgerald in reserve

Claran Fitzgerald, St. Mary's College, will be Ireland's reserve hooker for the international championship match against Scotland at Lansdowne Road.

Park looking for opponents

Rosslyn Park are seeking opponents for next Saturday as a Park official said: "It now means we need to fix up a game quickly so as not to disappoint our supporters."

Latest European snow reports

Mayeur	90	93	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	0	
Good skiing everywhere	40	95	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	-3	
Most runs in good condition	40	150	Fair	Crust	Good	Fine	-8	
Upper slopes windswept	25	60	Fair	Crust	Fair	Fine	2	
Women areas on lower slopes	90	150	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-2	
Arctic	90	150	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	-2	
Excellent skiing conditions	95	200	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	-6	
Membrures	120	200	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	0	
Few runs open, high winds	120	200	Fair	Crust	Fair	Cloud	4	
Most runs open	180	300	Fair	Crust	Fair	Cloud	4	
Wind	180	350 metres	Good	Crust	Good	Cloud	-1	
Powder patches above 1500 metres	180	350	Fair	Crust	Fair	Cloud	2	
Upper slopes still, few runs open	20	20	Fair	Crust	Fair	Cloud	2	
Upper slopes risk, windswept								
The above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:								
	Depth (cm)	Slope (°)	Weather	St Gervais Superbvoie	50	50	Good Sun	=
ITALY					50	170	Fair Cloud	=
Alpe	15	40	Good	Chapel	60	70	Good	=
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9

Great German ballads

Hermann Prey Wyndham's Theatre

Barry Millington

Sunday's presentation by the Vocal Art Appreciation Society of an evening of German ballads was an imaginative idea on two counts: first it allowed us to compare the approaches of four of the nineteenth-century's great songwriters to that particular genre, where usually only one or two are included in a recital —ballad, perhaps, as much as ballads; second, the extended scale and dramatic form of the ballad art well suited to the voice and talents of the singer on Sunday, Hermann Prey. The composers represented were Schubert, Loewe, Schumann and Wolf, the programme beginning and ending with contrasted settings of the same poem—Goethe's "Der Sänger."

Mr Prey did not realize his full potential in the opening group of Schubert ballads: his expressio was muted, and his footing unsure, a troublesome helped her to check off a certain stiffness which had sometimes checked her earlier Schubert performances.

As a result, Grieg and Sjögren were more, warmly honoured in this "Mainly Schubert" recital than himself. Yet there were abundant pleasures in Miss Söderström's singing of Schubert, and also in Martin Popoff's playing of him. In particular the longer, continuously developing songs, such as "Ganymed" and Gretchen am Spinnrade found Mr Isepp providing an exact, courteous accompaniment above

"Archibald Douglas" there was more evidence of the necessary characterization and dramatic urgency. In "Der Osk" for example, Mr Prey brought to life the narrative of the young nobleman's encounter on the eve of his wedding with the death-announcing Erlking's daughter: there was a lovely touch of happy innocence at Erlmorgens, where the unsuspecting bride-to-be arrives on the scene.

The second half found Mr Prey in better voice still: Schumann's "Belsazar", a setting of Heine's account of the appearance of the writing on the wall, ended on a note of chilling horror, while in Wolf's "Der Feuerreiter" the build-up of tension was controlled admirably.

His accompanist, Geoffrey Parsons, called upon to represent wedding celebrations, furious rides (generally on galloping steeds) and much more, coped excellently; at times, especially in the first half, he seemed to underestimate the power of Mr Prey's voice, but his always highly coloured accompaniments contributed a great deal to the success of the recital.

Elisabeth Söderström Queen Elizabeth Hall

Paul Griffiths

It could be argued that singers should sing, or talk, but one who was present at Sunday's recital by Elisabeth Söderström could regret her engaging introductions to the Scandinavian songs in the second part of her programme. Not only did these little preambles establish a close rapport with the audience, they also helped her to check off a certain stiffness which had sometimes checked her earlier Schubert performances.

As a result, Grieg and Sjögren were more, warmly honoured in this "Mainly Schubert" recital than himself. Yet there were abundant pleasures in Miss Söderström's singing of Schubert, and also in Martin Popoff's playing of him. In particular the longer, continuously developing songs, such as "Ganymed" and Gretchen am Spinnrade found Mr Isepp providing an exact, courteous accompaniment above

which Miss Söderström could wind an unbroken thread of tone judiciously weighted with emotion.

This she did, above all, by paying special attention to the balance of phrases; whether one should lean towards another, pull back or remain in the air. And all the while she drew on the full range of vocal resources at her command, from grand amplexes to that quavering vulnerability which she actually over exaggerates.

Her feeling for colour was not always so reliable in the shorter Schubert songs. A piece like "An die Nachtigall" she could throw off with perfect elegance, but her choice of a blanched, breathless sound for the last line of "Nun wer die Sehnsucht kennt" was a misjudgment, for suddenly this very human Mignon became a melodramatic stereotype.

The recital's more relaxed second part was quite free of such blunders. Miss Söderström suggested that Sjögren, in choosing a poem set by Wolf, had "made a good try at it". She herself did much more than that in her selections from Nordic lyricism.

Fires of London Dublin Festival of Twentieth-century Music

Kenneth Loveland

No pun is intended in recording that the Dublin Festival of Twentieth-century music caught fire with the arrival of the Fires of London, giving it a zest and relevance to its title not always apparent in the early stages.

There was the first showing of *One Foot in Eden*, the film produced by Penny Clark and directed by Barrie Gavin for the Arts Council of Great Britain, still in need of discriminating editing, but already an exciting documentary of the relationship between the creative development of Peter Maxwell Davies and the sights, sounds and above all the temperament of his chosen environment in the Orkneys. There was, too, the composer's lecture on the purpose of music theatre itself an engaging example of the art, and even the fun, of communication.

The Fires showed their keen involvement in the festival by producing a new Irish work and a substantial one at that, Gerard Victory's *Adest Hora*, a 40-minute canticle on the destruction of Pompeii. The composer is less concerned with painting the moments of eruption and catastrophe (which make less impact than they might) than with illustrating in musical terms a relationship between the city's way of life and its artistic concerns, and the writings of Tacitus, Catullus and others. This suggests an emotional rather than a pictorial approach, and using an ensemble of violin, cello, clarinet, piano, celesta and a wide range of percussion, Mr Victory has tailored the work carefully not only to the resources of the Fires of London but also to the kind of sound experience teaches us to expect from them, with just occasional romantic undernotes.

Sometimes the violence has a sharp poignance, sometimes it sounds contrived. But the work is strongly contested and the post-disaster apothecosis of compassion gives it significance.

Morris's Agamemnon, in 1969, and Stephen Oliver's *The Duchess of Malfi*, in 1972.

The music of *The Lambton Worm*, to be given at Oxford Playhouse on February 14, 15, 17 and 18, is by Robert Sherlaw Johnson and the libretto, based on the Durham folk legend, is by Anne Ridler.

The production will be designed by Alan Holliday and the producer is Michael Gearin Tosh. The major roles in the opera are to be sung by professional singers, including Mary King, Mary Munn, Richard Lloyd Morgan and Peter Reynolds. The composer will conduct all four performances.

Turn of The Lambton Worm

Oxford University Opera Club is presenting as its major production of the 1977/78 season a new opera, *The Lambton Worm*, commissioned by the club with funds made available by the Arts Council of Great Britain. Although the club is best known for its performances of neglected pre-twentieth-century works, 13 of its 52 major productions have been of twentieth-century works, three of which have been world premieres: Egon Welles's *Incognita*, in 1951, Richard

£16,000 the pair



This was the price realized at Sotheby's for the miniatures of William and Maria Burroughs, by John Smart, which created a new world auction record for 18th century miniatures. The previous record, made at Sotheby's in July, was £7,000 for a single miniature.

If you have a miniature which you think may be of value, telephone or write to

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Law Report January 16 1978

Queen's Bench Division

Libel damages for Mr Michael Foot

Foot v Associated Newspapers Group Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Bristow

The Daily Mail apologized to Mr Michael Foot, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, for publishing an article in which it was alleged that he had received private treatment as a National Health Service patient.

Mr Foot, who sued Associated Newspapers Group Ltd, publishers of the Daily Mail, and Mr David English, the editor, for libel, was awarded damages and costs.

Mr Peter Bowler, for Mr Foot, said that in April, 1975, on the advice of his doctors, Mr Foot, then Secretary of State for Employment, was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital for surgical examination and treatment of a growth which his doctors suspected might be malignant. Happily the growth was found to be benign and he was discharged about a week later.

On April 30, while Mr Foot was still in hospital, the Daily Mail published an article in which it was alleged that he had received private treatment as a National Health Service patient.

Mr Foot considered that the article implied that he was hypocritical and insincere in his advocacy of egalitarianism.

That grave libel upon Mr Foot was wholly untrue. Since the establishment of the Health Service, he had at one time either sought or received privileged treatment in any hospital.

The nature of Mr Foot's ailment was such that anyone exhibiting similar symptoms would have been admitted speedily to hospital. He specifically requested that he be placed in a public ward and emphasized that he wished to

receive treatment on the same basis as any other patient in the hospital, which was the local hospital for the area in which he lived. The Royal Free Hospital did not have large wards of the old-fashioned type but was built to a plan which enabled a series of small rooms to be supervised by a nurse from a central position.

Mr Foot was given a bed in a room in that part of the hospital exclusively devoted to National Health patients. Private patients were accommodated in a different wing. The operation was not performed, as alleged by the Daily Mail, by the most senior surgeon on duty at the hospital, but by the senior registrar of the surgical firm responsible for Mr Foot's treatment in the absence of the consultant, who was ill.

The Daily Mail now recognized that there was no foundation for the allegations contained in the article and had agreed to pay a sum by way of damages to Mr Foot and his legal costs. They had also agreed to publish the article and to publish a report of the apology. Mr Foot's sole reason for bringing the action was to prevent the continued republication of the libel by the Daily Mail. However, in view of the apology, Mr Foot would accordingly be content not to pursue the action further.

Mr Richard Rampton, for the Daily Mail and Mr English, said that they accepted what Mr Foot had said. They recognized that there was absolutely no foundation for the allegations and they deeply regretted the publication of the article. They apologized to Mr Foot and to his wife.

Solicitors: Oswald Hickson, Collier & Co; Swineston, Walsh & Son.

Source of sentencing injustice

Regina v Harnden

Section 3 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1961, under which a prison sentence of more than six months and less than three years cannot be imposed on a defendant who is under 21, was a potent source of injustice, the Lord Chief Justice said in the Court of Appeal.

The court allowed an appeal by David John Harnden, a 20-year-old undergraduate, against a sentence of three years imprisonment for possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply and substituted a sentence of borstal training.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, who was sitting with Mr Justice Melford Stevenson and Mr Justice Lloyd, said that where a defendant was under 21 the court must first decide the appropriate prison sentence and, if it fell within the prohibited period, make a borstal order, however unsuitable that might be. Section 3 should not be used as a means of passing a longer sentence than was required. In the present case a prison sentence of two years would have been appropriate for such a young man committing his first offence. The appeal would be allowed.

The drive will be along the Wanjoji valley, which runs parallel to the Aberdare forest. The Kipipiri mountain mass is an extension of the Aberdare and the area of new operations is shaped somewhat like a sack. The Wanjoji valley is a narrow-mouth and into this entrance this morning went two companies of Fusiliers cleaning up as they progressed and driving before them and collecting large numbers of Africans, mainly squatters in the forest and on the farms, for questioning. A third company of the battalion held the southern base line, acting as a stop, and moving north through the forest in close contact along every track towards the summit. It is expected that the bag will be between 2,000 and 3,000, mainly Kikuyus.

Debate on ordination of women

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

The ordination of women stands out as the one potentially divisive issue on the agenda of the 1978 Lambeth Conference, which was published yesterday. All the 396 diocesan bishops in the Anglican Communion have been invited to a comprehensive review of the relationship between church and society in many different cultures.

The Right Rev John Rowe, secretary of the conference, indicated yesterday that the final position on the ordination of women will be debated to open session of the full conference, probably beginning its work on ordination of women by a group of bishops who have been carefully selected to ensure balance.

The great majority of local churches that have considered the ordination of women have decided in favour of it, in principle at least, and an increasing number have taken steps to implement it.

Bishop Rowe said, feeling had become more sensitive about the divisions the issue was causing within the churches, and about its

effect on the whole communion's relations with the Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches.

The Lambeth Conference, which has been held about every 10 years since 1867, with one 20-year gap at the time of the First World War, is the first to be wholly residential. It will take place at Kent University, Canterbury, from July 23 to August 13 under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Coggan. Although it is the highest body in world Anglicanism, all member churches are independent and autonomous and the authority of conference decisions is therefore moral rather than legal.

It is not entirely representative, as some provinces have a far higher ratio of bishops to church members than others. The Episcopal Church in the United States of America, with about 1,500,000 members, has 113 bishops. The Anglican Communion has a total of 60 million members, which includes 27 million baptized members of the Church of England, of whom only 10 million are active. In 1976, 43 diocesan bishops will therefore be at a numerical disadvantage compared with the American bishops, which could influence the

outcome of certain decisions if they are put to a vote.

Dr Coggan intended this conference to be more reflective than usual, with some concentration on the episcopacy itself. But the past year's factiousness in the Anglican Communion has meant that room has had to be found on the agenda for a host of issues, ranging from Marxism to family life.

The Anglican Communion is growing in numbers in spite of contraction in the older English-speaking countries, and that is largely due to the general growth of population in Africa and Asia. A higher proportion of the bishops are now nationally indigenous compared with 10 years ago, and for the first time the organization will include simultaneous translation facilities for Japanese, French and Rwandan.

Observers from most other world Christian communities will be present and to take part. The Orthodox churches have asked for a special meeting of the international Anglican-Orthodox commission, which will be held in Beirut before the conference, in order to give weight to the Orthodox objections to the ordination of women.

£291,666 for a Breughel

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

A small panel painting of flowers in a vase by Jan Breughel the Elder brought a surprising auction record for the artist when it was sold for £291,666, or \$291,666, at Sotheby's, New York, on Friday.

The painting, which is a copy of a work by the artist's son, was sold for £291,666, or \$291,666, at Sotheby's, New York, on Friday.

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Church given secret statistics on detainees

From Our Correspondent
Johannesburg, Jan 16

Secret statistics about the number of people held without trial in South Africa under security laws have been given to a senior official of the Nederlandse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK), the establishment church of the ruling Afrikaners.

This was disclosed on the eve of a meeting tomorrow between leaders of the church and a six-man delegation from its Dutch "mother" church, the Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland, the second largest of the reformed churches in Holland.

Such figures are rarely given in Parliament as the Government considers them "not to be in the public interest".

The Dutch mission is in South Africa to examine its ties with the NGK and, particularly, whether to support the World Council of Churches (WCC) special fund to combat racism, to discuss alternatives to the fund and to examine what action the white NGK is taking in the face of racial tension in southern Africa.

Dr O'Brien Geldenhuys, Director of Ecumenical Affairs of the NGK, said today that the information about security arrests was needed for the visitors and Mr James Kruger, the Minister of Justice, had supplied it saying he would soon give the details in Parliament.

Mrs Helen Suzman, of the Progressive-Federal Party and official Opposition spokesman on police and justice matters, commented that she found the minister's decision extraordinary.

She said: "Surely Parliament has a right to information of this kind."

An Afrikaans-language newspaper claimed that the statistics given to Dr O'Brien Geldenhuys included a confidential report detailing why people had been detained and listing those to be acted against in future and giving reasons. He has denied this.

According to records kept by the Institute of Race Relations, 662 people were being held on September 30, the highest number since detention without trial laws were introduced in 1961.

The institute's figures do not include people held in the drive against black consciousness organizations ordered last October by Mr Kruger or those who have since been released.

Last June Mr Kruger told Parliament that a total of 536 people were being held under security laws at the end of May. Last September he disclosed that since June, 1976, when black urban unrest broke out in Soweto, a total of 2,430 people had been held for questioning under security laws.

The Rev Cas Maak, Moderator of the Gereformeerde Kerken and leader of the Dutch mission which arrived in South Africa on Friday, said that if the Dutch church spread votes in April to support the World Council of Churches special fund, the South African NGK would sever all ties.

Faced with a similar threat in 1976, the Dutch spread votes to withdraw support for the WCC fund but the issue has now arisen again with much greater intensity.

The Dutch churchmen are expected to be in South Africa for about two weeks. They will meet a wide cross-section of NGK men and probably, also, the Rev Beyers Naude, banned Director of the Christian Institute of Southern Africa, who is a former Moderator of the NGK.

The NGK is the largest of the three Dutch reformed sister churches in South Africa, with more than a million members of whom 1,500,000 are white.

As the Dutch churchmen began their talks, an embarrassing row was developing over the ejection of six black members from a future service the Nederduitse Hervormde Kerk (NHK) in Krugersdorp, near Johannesburg, the NHK is the smallest of the three sister Dutch reformed churches.

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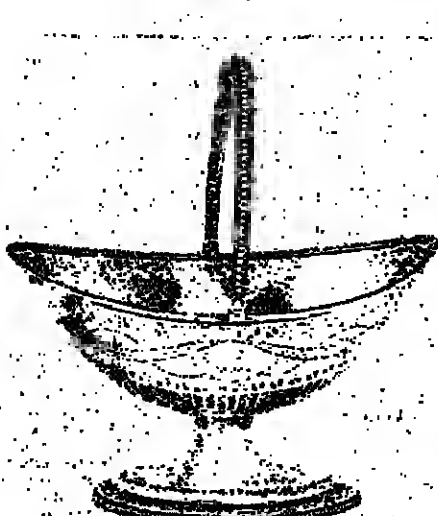
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Bernard Levin writes the first in a series on the tragedy that has overtaken Vietnam today

The victors and the victims: where have all the protesters gone?

"It is better for someone trying to preserve intact his education for a revolution not to know its victims." Thus spoke Jean Lacouture, perhaps the best of all those who reported the Vietnam War, a man whose honesty and objectivity throughout the conflict were trusted by both sides, whose dominant concern was the suffering of the Vietnamese people, not for any ideological preconceptions, yet whose instinctive sympathies were with those who opposed American intervention and wanted it to fall. And those words of his are bitterly relevant today, as more and more information filters through the net of silence, in which the unified communist state of Vietnam is enwrapped. It comes as no surprise to me to learn that the rulers of the new Vietnam are engaged on the extinction of human rights throughout the country, that they have killed many of their opponents and imprisoned many more, that those Vietnamese who opposed the American intervention and the Government of Thieu and Ky in the South, but in the name of freedom and peace rather than communism, are among those who are now being most relentlessly persecuted by the victors, that the destruction of the Buddhist Church proceeds relentlessly. Nor am I surprised that the Vietnamese rulers and their actions are still being

commended in the West and their totalitarian oppression denied or even condoned.

Fortunately, however, I am also not surprised that there are brave and honest men and women, particularly in the United States, who opposed America's part in the Vietnam War (some of them went to jail for their acts of defiance) and denounced the government of the South, but who are now protesting at the violation of human rights on the part of Vietnam's present rulers. I have seen no word of such protest on the part of the Susan Sontags and Mary McCabys, the David Dellingers and Paul Sweezys, the Joan Michelses, or Peggy Buffs, the Cordes Lamons or Fathers Berrigans; indeed, when an appeal to Vietnam's communist rulers was published (after many months of private representations) urging them to respect human rights, to permit independent investigation of the charges against them, and to release or prosecute those detained without trial, the signatories were attacked in a counter-statement, which put the blame on the United States, spoke of "some Saigon collaborators" who "have been detained in reeducation centres" (a wonderfully revealing phrase), and concluded that "The present government of Vietnam should be bailed for its moderation and for its extraordinary effort to achieve

reconciliation among all of its people."

Before I go on to give examples of the brutalities and oppressions of these apostles of moderation and reconciliation, I want to give the names of some of those Americans who fought their own Government for its part in the Vietnam war, but who believe that tyranny is to be denounced wherever it is practised. The appeal I mentioned was signed by, among others, Joan Baez, Roger Baldwin, Daniel Ellsberg, Howard Fast, James Forest, who spent a year in prison for his actions—specifically, destroying draft records—in the campaign against American intervention, has now been smeared as a CIA agent and another revealing phrase—"a covert anti-communist", Allen Ginsberg and Richard Neuhaus.

From the material assembled by those who prepared the appeal, from the efforts of such men as Theodore Jacquency (a former State Department official in Vietnam who resigned his job in protest against American support for President Thieu) and from the reports of refugees, I have collected a depressingly large amount of evidence that, as some would put it, human rights are being violated on an enormous and systematic scale in Vietnam, or that, as I would put it myself, the rulers of a totalitarian state are behaving like the

rulers of a totalitarian state. This, therefore, is the first of a consecutive series of columns on the subject, which I write not in the expectation of persuading leopards to change their spots, or even in the hope that those who stridently maintain that the leopards are utterly unspotted will fall silent, but in the cause of what Camus called "the eternal refugee from the camp of the victor", to wit, justice.

I begin with the testimony of Nguyen Cong Hoan, a recent refugee from Vietnam. Hoan gave evidence before an American congressional committee, and later expanded on his remarks there in a long interview with Theodore Jacquency, published in the official magazine of the American trade union organization, the AFL-CIO. (I am, incidentally, imagining our TUC today in its principal publication, devoting a quarter of its space, including the whole of the front page, to an account of oppression in a communist country.) Hoan is 34 years old; his record is such that his testimony can certainly be trusted. For he was not a supporter of the fallen leaders in the South, who might be expected to paint a grim picture of the conquerors' activities; on the contrary, he was a leading opponent of the Thieu regime, and when the communists finally won he was appointed as a reward to the "Parliament" in Hanoi. But then disillusion set in, as he saw further himself the oppression which followed. As a member of the National Assembly under the new regime, Mr. Hoan had the opportunity to visit some of the "reeducation centres" set up by the victors in the South for their victims. This is what he had to say about the three he saw:

The prisoners looked like skeletons. When there were on camp officials around, they complained that they never had enough to eat. They did hard labour. The death rate in the camps was very high. . . . The worst treatment in the prison camps was reserved for members of political parties who opposed the communists, even if they also opposed Saigon dictatorships. . . . Many prisoners were also intellectuals and professionals who had criticized the former regime. The first detentions, in June 1975, were for former military and civilian government officials. Later in 1975 they began taking former journalists, writers, and scholars. Those whom the authorities felt had announced their beliefs were sent to the most remote, harshest re-education camps. These were people jailed for their opinions—not because they had done anything criminal.

The three camps that Mr. Hoan visited belonged to a group of seven, of which the total population was about 6,000; these camps were set up for prisoners of one province, the total population of which is about 300,000. If

the camps in the other provinces of the South hold a similar proportion (and there was nothing to suggest that the province Mr. Hoan covered was in any way exceptional) that would give a total camp population of some 340,000. Mr. Hoan himself says the figure is "at least 200,000". And other refugees, many of whom had themselves been in the camps, fill in the outline of his statistics with firmly realistic detail. These refugees

provide accounts of deaths resulting from "overwork and disease" in the prisons, including malnutrition, beriberi, dysentery, exhaustion induced by forced labour, casualties from minefields and suicide. Former inmates also describe widespread vision loss, paralysis and infectious skin diseases, caused by the long term, closely packed, unhygienic, dark, hot, damp and filthy detention conditions. Ex-prisoners also report widespread nervous breakdowns bordering on insanity, brought on by oppressive prison conditions, constant demands for "self-criticism" confessions, detailing personal and family biography and political views over and over and over again.

So much for the general picture. But it is filled in, in grim detail, by the accounts of other refugees from the new Vietnam, and some of their accounts I shall give tomorrow.

(To be continued)
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Scots MPs will always have a job to do at Westminster

The basic defect of the devolution plans has not been resolved

There has been growing speculation as to the future role of Scottish MPs at Westminster in the event of an Assembly in Edinburgh being established. Some have suggested that Scottish MPs will have little to do in the House of Commons other than to debate foreign affairs and defence. Others have implied that they spend most of their time after devolution in debating and voting on English measures while the problems that affect their constituents in Scotland are determined by the Scottish Assembly and executive.

Those who put forward such propositions have yet to provide any factual or statistical basis for their conclusions. The truth of the matter is that, notwithstanding the ultimate implementation of the Scotland Bill, there will still be a full and time-consuming role for Scotland's representatives in the House of Commons.

This claim can be substantiated in a number of ways. For example, since the beginning of 1974, there have been 267 Acts of Parliament that have received the Royal Assent. Of these, 200 Acts either apply throughout the United Kingdom or solely to Scotland. The remaining 67 apply only to England, Wales or Northern Ireland.

If in the period since the beginning of 1974 a Scottish Assembly, with the legislative powers proposed in the present Bill, had been in operation only 47 of the Acts of Parliament that have been applied to Scotland would have been in respect of devolved matters and have been the sole responsibility of the Assembly. The remaining 153 Acts that have been applied to Scotland either alone or as part of the United Kingdom (out of a total of 200) would still have been the sole responsibility of the House of Commons as they would have been concerned with non-devolved matters.

So as far as legislation is concerned, Scottish MPs at Westminster will, if the past four years are anything to go by, have over 75 per cent of their present workload remaining, irrespective of devolution. If one applies criteria other than legislation, the conclusions must be drawn that even more striking. Select committees, for example, represent one of the most important activities of MPs who are not in the Government. There are, at present, 15 select committees covering defence, public accounts, EEC legislation, race relations, nationalised industries and other major aspects of Parliament's work. All of them are of equal relevance to MPs from throughout the United Kingdom and not one will have its remit reduced as a result of devolution to Scotland. Thus the involvement of Scottish MPs in select committees after devolution can be as full, relevant and legitimate as at present.

The other useful criterion to apply is whether Scottish MPs will have any substantial interest to the work of United Kingdom government departments after devolution. Clearly the Scottish Office's responsibilities will be drastically reduced and that great spending department will become a shadow of its present self. Certain other departments are, already, irrespective of devolution, essentially English affairs. The Department of Education and Science, for example, has as a result of devolution in Scotland except for the universities, the arts and research councils, and of these the arts will go to the Assembly.

Like the Department of the Environment, then, only minimal responsibilities north of the border, while the Home Office has no involvement in Scotland for police, prisons or law reform.

However, they are the exceptions. Notwithstanding devolution, 12 government departments will remain with almost identical responsibilities for the whole of the United Kingdom. They include the Treasury, which will not only retain general responsibility for the British economy but which has successfully resisted any powers

of taxation for the devolved assemblies. The House of Commons will thus remain the legislature in the United Kingdom able to levy taxation. Other major departments will retain United Kingdom wide responsibilities as the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (including all EEC matters), the Department of Energy (including North Sea oil), the Departments of Trade, Transport, Overseas Development and Prices and Consumer Protection.

Furthermore, the Department of Health and Social Security will retain sole responsibility for pensions and social security in Scotland as elsewhere. The Department of Transport and the Home Office will continue with major powers in Scotland as part of the United Kingdom. In addition, the Scottish Office will retain important supervisory and powers in regard to the Assembly and the Scottish law of will still be members of the United Kingdom government. It can thus be seen, therefore, that there will be no shortage of work for Scottish MPs at Westminster. They certainly, no longer be involved in Scottish education, or health, but surely those MPs particularly interested in the devolved matters will seek to the Assembly rather than Westminster. There after all, many English who take little active interest in Scottish affairs, or in the House of Commons, will concentrate their time on Scottish matters, and energy, defence or other United Kingdom matters.

Indeed, part of the pro for Scottish MPs, as shown in a recent study at Strathclyde University, is that Scottish MPs at Westminster have spent a large part of their time on Scottish and less on matters affecting the whole United Kingdom might have been desirable. It is no longer a matter of "if" but "when" this might be a matter of regret.

The fact that Scottish MPs would have a full role to play at Westminster after devolution does not, of course, in any way resolve the fundamental defect in the government's proposals; namely, that Scottish MPs will also be able to vote on purely English domestic issues, while their English colleagues will have lost corresponding right to influence Scottish legislation. That is a defect that can, probably, be resolved by either creating a federal United Kingdom or by dropping devolution altogether.

There is also the question of the proper number of Scottish MPs who should sit in the House of Commons. This is a separate issue on which no can be said but for many years ago and for reduction of present total of 71.

The arguments I have advanced, however, should demonstrate that if the Scottish Assembly does become a reality there need be no serious defect in the government's proposals; namely, that Scottish MPs will also be able to vote on purely English domestic issues, while their English colleagues will have lost corresponding right to influence Scottish legislation. That is a defect that can, probably, be resolved by either creating a federal United Kingdom or by dropping devolution altogether.

Malcolm Rifkin
The author is Conservative MP for Edinburgh Pentlands.

Escalating things too far

Continuing our occasional series on words.

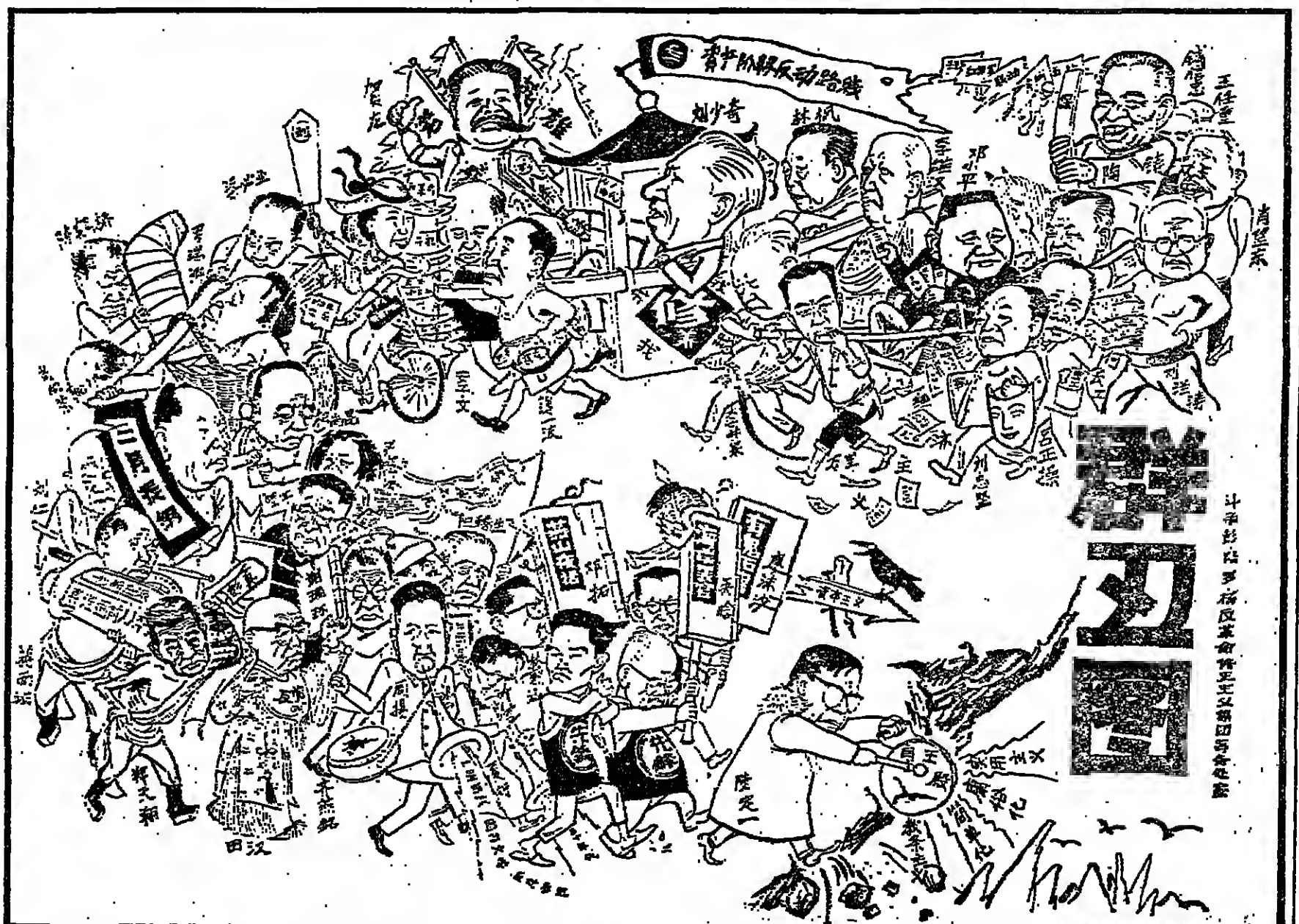
With luck the escalation of the word for using escalation to mean no more than any old increase in anything has halted. Let us now hope for a rapid de-escalation, so that the new word can be confined to the meanings for which it was invented: the escalation of nuclear deterrence and thence, metaphorically, the hot jargon of wages and prices.

The words are a back-formation from escalator, the name invented for a moving staircase, and derived from the Italian *scala*, a ladder. Escalate originally came into the language to mean to climb or reach by means of an escalator, or to transitively, to travel on an escalator. So picturesque a new word rapidly acquired a number of other uses. As early as 1938 *The Kansas City Star* explained: "Escalation means the building of bigger battleships when other nations do so." As early as 1947 Hugh Dalton was telling the House of Commons that the report of the War Damage Commission did advise a certain escalation.

But the words did not escalate out of the underground into prominence until they were adopted by the thermodynamic strategists and jargonists. The guru of them all, Herman Kahn, whose semantic fall-out has polluted the western world, gave the authoritative definition in his book *Thinking about the Unthinkable* in 1962: "There is a tendency for each side to counter the other pressure with a somewhat stronger one of its own. This increasing pressure step by step is called escalation."

Accordingly, to escalate is a precise and logical verb that means to increase by successive stages. It looks silly and pretentious when used indiscriminately to mean no more than to increase or accelerate. Escalation is a cumbersome word to describe the act or process of increasing armaments, prices, wages, and so on, or an increase or development by successive stages, specifically the development of conventional warfare into nuclear warfare, or the use of successively more powerful types of weapons in war. When there are no successive stages in the increase under discussion, escalation is wrong and betrays its use as a mere parrot of fashionable clichés.

Philip Howard



Anyone can see at a glance how great a change there has been in China and how much Mao's supposed triumph in the cultural revolution has been reversed, in this cartoon published in *Peoples Daily* in 1967. It represents the most prominent party, army and intellectual leaders in China who had been thrown out of office. It was reproduced in *The Times* with an article describing how many senior men had suffered.

Of those caricatured about half are known to have been rehabilitated and more may have been. There is uncertainty about this because the Chinese never announce the fact of

rehabilitation any more than they announce new appointments; the only way to discover such things is to look through the list of names when those present on state occasions are listed in full—rather like going through the list of OBEs in the birthday honours.

There could be more to emerge when the National People's Congress meets—probably next month. But how strong is the opposition? It comes, of course, from those members of the politburo who rose to power during the cultural revolution and were personally promoted to their present high rank by Mao. Most of them were on very good

terms—to say the least—with the Gang of Four while they seemed a good bet.

The gulf between them and the old guard led, of course, by the redoubtable Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping, can easily be imagined. Since Mr. Hua Kuo-feng is the most prominent of this group the precarious unity at the top might collapse if too many cultural revolution rejects were to be restored to honour.

To take the most outstanding of those in the cartoon, their rank indicated by being horsed or carried, starting from the top right of the column: Tao Chu—not yet rehabilitated though rumours were current

at one time; Teng Hsiao-ping (black crew-cut, bending bridge hand) very much back in power; Liu Shao-chi dead and not yet rehabilitated; Mao's most castigated opponent; Ho Lung (smoking cigar hacked by general's flags) died in suspicious circumstances in cultural revolution and now fulsomely rehabilitated posthumously; Lo Jui-ching (in the basket with bandaged leg—he tried to commit suicide in the cultural revolution) rehabilitated; Peng Chen (balding, holding scroll) the next most castigated opponent of Mao, not yet rehabilitated.

Richard Harris

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

'The Times' and the affair of Peter Townsend

In yesterday's *Daily Express* instalment of *Lis* side of the Princess Margaret affair, Group Captain Peter Townsend had something to say about the leading article in *The Times* of October 26, 1955. This preceded by five days Princess Margaret's statement that she had decided not to marry the group captain. The leading article, writes Group Captain Townsend, "has been taken as the turning point in our story". But it did not sway him, he insists. His mind was made up before he read it. He calls the editorial "magisterial" and talks of its "splendid, sweeping phrases". But he finds its arguments specious and based on false premises. I have been reminding myself of some of those "splendid, sweeping phrases". This is how the editorial ends: "Whatever the judgment of that unswerving tribunal [the Princess's conscience] may follow subjects with her every possible happiness—not forgetting that happiness to the full sense is a spiritual state, and that its

most precious element may be the sense of duty done."

Earlier, the editorial speaks of the public factor in the Princess's personal problem as "something which is neither Church nor State but a living organism which is broader and more profoundly based than either—the many-sided society or family of the Queen's subjects of which the Church and State are no more than ecclesiastical and political aspects."

The Queen had come to be that society's symbol, "its universal representative in whom her people see their better selves ideally reflected; and since part of that ideal is family life, the Queen's family has its own part in the reflection."

If the marriage now being discussed comes to pass, it is inevitable that this reflection becomes distorted. It would be a union which vast numbers of her sister's people could not, in conscience, regard as a marriage.

What was a National Front meeting on behalf of the Conservative Party?



A paragraph in a report to Clwyd county council about a community bus scheme is headed "Steering Committee".

Overloading men of steel?

The news that the Commission of the EEC has announced research grants to Britain ought to be one in the eye for those anti-marketisers who seem always to be knocking our membership of the Nine.

My enthusiasm for the EEC largesse is, however, less than ecstatic for I note that the recipient of three of the grants is none other than the British Steel Corporation.

The Commission's contribution of £77.415 over two years

for the "evaluation and development of an eye-face head respiratory protective assembly for use on coke ovens" might seem worthy enough.

But what about the other two grants to the BSC?—£63.375 for the "organisation of work to facilitate recovery from high load and extreme conditions" and an astonishing £25.025 for the "study of low back pain".

What about a grant for the British taxpayers who find the BSC a pain in the neck?

A little on the distaff side

Adam Thomson, chairman and chief executive of British Caledonian, has just returned from a Washington mission with a heightened appreciation of the inroads women are making into American public life. He was over there trying to get the United States to rethink its airfares policy.

One after the other, the ladies button-holed him for his views. I list just a few of them: Mary Schuman, assistant direc-

tor of domestic policy staff at the White House; Elizabeth Bailey, of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board; Carole Shiffrin, of *The Washington Post*; Rhonda Goodman, of *Aviation Daily*.

Then, what should he see when he went to the theatre at the Kennedy Centre was *The First Monday in October*, a play about the appointment of the first woman justice to the Supreme Court.

Nothing to stir the emotions

Wandering abstractedly past the walls of the Robert Motherwell retrospective at the Royal Academy at the weekend, I was invited to meet the American abstractist himself. Respected and benign looking, he stood in front of one of his vast canvases, trying to explain to someone why most of it was just a sea of red paint.

I politely declined the invitation. Neither my heart, eyes nor brain had registered anything in the way of interest (though I did linger, slightly longer over the occasional collage) and I felt my undisguised apathy might distress him.

I was told he was thrilled beyond measure that his retrospective is on at the RA at the same time as the Leonardo anatomical drawings. I think he is a very lucky man indeed.

Mention of Leonardo leads me to the real point of this item, which is to record that this week, for the first time in its history, the RA will have five major exhibitions running concurrently: the Leonardo, the Motherwell, the Light Fantastic, the Gustave Courbet and Cityscape 1910-39. The last-mentioned two open on Thursday.

The pictorial plot thickens

While there are those of you (cynics) who will say that Edna Healey has had quite enough publicity for her first book, the biography of the Victorian philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts, there is one postscript from the Chancellor's wife that deserves telling.

An unknown woman knocked on the door of 11 Downing Street and offered to sell Mrs. Healey a portrait of Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Mrs. Healey said she would like to find out more about the painting and the unknown woman left the portrait with her, together with her name and address.

Now many experts doubt the authenticity of the picture but Mrs. Healey's detective work proved to her satisfaction that it was indeed the portrait of the great lady who was known as the "Queen of the Poor" and that the artist, a man named Colman, had helped the Baroness with her philanthropic work. Mrs. Healey then wrote to the woman, saying she would like to buy the picture. But she has received no reply from the address she was given. I've still got the painting here," Mrs. Healey told me from No. 11. "But the woman just seems to have disappeared. I very much hope that I can find her."

The joke in a poulterer's window

A poulterer in Seaford, Sussex, has added starlings to the birds on sale. The appalling trade is not, however, without precedent. A letter to *The Times* in 1943 recorded that one of London's leading stores, offered "rows of starlings at 9d each", and Andre Simon, in his *Dictionary of Wine and Food* reports that a gastronomic who ate them fresh shot on Alderney judged them "excellent". The Seaford poulterer has not yet sold any. He has, however, now added the following to his list in the window: "woodcock, wood pigeon, woodpecker. . . ." It is, he assures me, a joke to see whether anybody reads the signs or not.

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DEAD END IN ITALY

That Italy should now be confronted with yet another ministerial crisis is hardly surprising, indeed if anything it is a matter of congruence that the Andreotti government has lasted so long. It was obvious enough, when it took office in August 1976, that the formula on which it was based (the abstention of the Communists and other parties in votes of confidence) was too artificial, too ambiguous to provide anything more than a temporary solution to Italy's political crisis. True, this formula was made somewhat more substantial by last summer's agreement on a legislative programme. But the fundamental issue of political power remained unresolved.

And no doubt Italians would have lived happily with this ambiguity for years, if only the circumstances of their daily life had begun to improve. But this has not happened. The only thing to improve noticeably in 1977 was the balance of payments, which swung round dramatically. But this was accompanied by, and directly related to, a contraction of the national economy—that is, a fall in the rate of growth in the total amount of goods and services produced. This confirms an already known law of Italian economics: that the point of equilibrium in the country's foreign trade can be found only when the growth rate falls below zero. Imports can be reduced by slowing exports by falling domestic demand. But exports cannot be boosted above imports by rising production.

Unemployment has therefore continued to rise, while inflation has continued virtually unabated. The general sense of desperation, affecting young people especially, has if anything grown sharper as it appeared that even the Communist Party, after achieving a position in which it was officially admitted that Italy could not be governed without

its consent was either unwilling or unable to bring about significant changes. The most alarming symptom of the country's condition has been the continued spread of political violence, as isolated explosions and shootings in the legs have grown into something like street warfare, with extremists of right and left shooting at each other to kill and the police shooting more or less indiscriminately at anyone in the vicinity.

Even so it is possible that Signor Berlinguer and his colleagues would have preferred to maintain the status quo a bit longer, giving the six-party agreement a chance to show its results, had not the other parties—particularly the Republicans and Socialists—taken the lead in declaring that the government was no longer adequate to deal with a situation which called for Signor Andreotti's tactical ingenuity but for a broad-based "emergency government", including the Communists, with the capacity to take swift and firm decisions. Whether such a government would actually have that capacity may well be doubted, but the Communists could hardly hang back any longer from demanding a direct share in power when other parties were putting forward the demand on their behalf.

The Christian Democrat leaders had repeatedly made it clear that they had no intention of accepting such a demand. It therefore says rather little for American confidence in the strength of Christian Democrat resolve that the State Department felt it necessary to issue a statement last Thursday reiterating American opposition to Communist participation in West European governments and even calling for a reduction of Communist influence in all West European countries. Although preceded by the usual ritual recognition of the right of European citizens to decide for them-

selves how they wanted to be governed, this statement was interpreted in Italy (inevitably in view of its timing) as a kind of veto issued by a protecting power, and as such visibly embarrassed the Christian Democrats themselves.

The trouble is that such statements do not alter the basic elements of the problem. The Christian Democrats do not have a majority on their own. The Socialists are not prepared to join the government unless the Communists are involved as well. The Communists need something to convince their supporters that their strategy of historic compromise is making some progress. That something cannot at this stage be full participation in the government, but it may have to be formal consultation about the composition of the government as well as its programme. It will probably have to be yet another ingenious Italian formula enabling the Communists to claim that they are now part of the parliamentary majority and the Christian Democrats to insist that they are not.

But to agree on such a formula in the present climate will be a difficult task, and certainly not a swift one. It will be complicated by the usual jockeying for position among the non-Communist leaders, several of whom now have their eye on the presidential election to be held at the end of this year. At worst, the different parties will manoeuvre each other into incompatible positions from which the only appeal will be to a general election, though the most likely result of that would be to make the problem even more insoluble by strengthening both major parties at the expense of the smaller ones. At best, a government very like the last one will emerge after weeks of stalemate. Either way the ordinary Italian's opinion of his political leaders is unlikely to improve.

Voting and industrial relations

From Sir Anthony Bowlby and others

Sir, In the public debate on the merits of alternative electoral systems there is one aspect which has been neglected. This is the effect on industrial relations of the political consequences of an electoral system.

Good industrial relations are most likely to be achieved in societies in which majority public opinion holds political views based on the need to develop and improve the existing social and economic structure. They will not be achieved in a society divided between two parties by an electoral system which polarises politics and denies representation to intermediate opinion. In all European countries trade unions have strong ties with the political parties of the left while employers tend to support parties of the right, but in many of them this does not concentrate their industrial relations, because the electoral systems of those countries do not polarise their politics. But the present electoral law in the United Kingdom, commonly described as the "first past the post" system, fosters the existence of two parties only, one of the left and one of the right, and eliminates parties of the centre by radically reducing the value of any vote cast for them.

The consequences of this for our industrial relations have been serious. By exaggerating the swing of the vote in general elections the "first past the post" system has enabled successive governments not to be a swift one. It will be complicated by the usual jockeying for position among the non-Communist leaders, several of whom now have their eye on the presidential election to be held at the end of this year. At worst, the different parties will manoeuvre each other into incompatible positions from which the only appeal will be to a general election, though the most likely result of that would be to make the problem even more insoluble by strengthening both major parties at the expense of the smaller ones. At best, a government very like the last one will emerge after weeks of stalemate. Either way the ordinary Italian's opinion of his political leaders is unlikely to improve.

Such measures have consistently been advocated by the British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council. Action on them would also provide some reassurance to British steel users that they would not be put at a competitive disadvantage in world markets as a result of government actions affecting their main material supplier.

It would be a tragedy if the excitement over constitutional issues deflected attention from the many constructive recommendations of the select committee.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MARSH,
Chairman,
British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council,
16 Berwyn Road,
Richmond,
Surrey.
January 12.

British Steel reports

From Sir Richard Marsh

Sir, The two recent select committee reports on the British Steel Corporation could be major landmarks in the development of rational relationships between nationalised industries generally and government in particular.

Three recommendations in particular stand out: that Ministers should be forced to make public those directions which require BSC to act commercially; that BSC should have to publish the costs of "loss making" investment by government; and that BSC should be fully compensated by government for accepting non-commercial obligations. Acceptance of these recommendations would clarify the responsibilities and objectives of BSC management and greatly improve accountability in the public sector.

The cruise missile

From Mr Bruce Kent

Sir, Lord Chalfont, in his interesting article on the cruise missile (January 9), may well be right, from a purely technical point of view, that a second strike role of the cruise missile.

But Warsaw Pact defence authorities may read the signs differently. A long range delivery system which, being comparatively cheap can be used in large numbers, can be launched from the sea, travel at heights which make detection by surface radar very difficult, and

which has a pin-point accuracy quite unnecessary in a second strike weapon, may well be seen by those at whom it is aimed as having first strike potential.

If so, and it is so, then the cruise missile, once more first strike temptations. This is a further turn in the arms spiral and another aspect of the world of increasing risk in which we all now have to live.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE KENT, Chairman,
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament,
29 Great James Street, WCI.

Irish self determination

From Dr B. D. Bonar

Sir, Your leading article of January 10 on Mr Lynch's comments on Radio Telefis Eireann on Sunday, January 8, is so incorrect and lacking in real insight into the realities of the Irish situation that it deserves some answer from someone actually living in the island of Ireland.

One statement, above all others, which shows your ignorance of history generally and Irish history particularly, is where you refer to the principle of self determination and go on to say:

"Mr Lynch would say that the Six Counties of Northern Ireland is the wrong unit for the application of the principle which properly belongs to the 32 Counties, making up the island. Whatever validity that argument may once have had, it has come after more than 50 years of separate sovereignties."

Have you heard of the Poles, the

Slavs, the French, the Norwegians, the Greeks, the Jews, the Indians and other nations who have been subjugated and subdivided for periods of greater than 50 years and yet have retained their natural desire for oneness and recovered it? The island of Ireland has historically been one nation. The wish of the majority of Irishmen is that it should again become so. The majority of Irishmen espouse violence in the attainment of unity by your naive, intransigent ambiguity is the main, if not the only, factor in the continuance of violence in this island. It becomes difficult indeed to see any alternative to violence if your view represents thinking British opinion generally.

Yours truly,
B. DECLAN BONAR,
Millersfield,
Meenmore,
Dungloe,
Co Donegal,
January 11.

Rules of the NUJ

From the President of the National Union of Journalists

Sir, I have always admired Bernard Levin from afar. And if he continues his defence of democracy in the manner outlined in his column (The Times, January 11) I promise that is how I shall remain. He makes the defence of democracy sound as attractive as the Retreat masters of my youth made the defence of female virgins. Perhaps with as much success?

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How Mr Levin squares his breach of the confidentiality of union business with the rules of the union is entirely a matter for himself and the breach whose affairs he is so interested in and on whose behalf he is so concerned about many of the things that Mr Levin expresses concern about but he makes it so difficult for us by smearing down

many of us along with his perceived enemies. Craw-bumping self-righteousness wies no coverts and blunderbuss attacks through friends to injure enemies invariably kills only friends. But for safety I will continue to admire Mr Levin from afar.

Yours, etc.,
JOHN DEVINE,
President, National Union of Journalists,
314 Gray's Inn Road, WCI,
January 12.

From Miss Hilary Macaskill

Sir, I wish to correct the impression given by Bernard Levin (January 11) that his group of self-styled "moderates" swept the board at the elections in the London Free Press Branch of the NUJ. I was elected both to the committee and to the annual conference delegation but am out on my mailing list and do not have any contact with his group.

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Yours faithfully,
HILARY MACASKILL,
19 Framfield Road, NS,
January 11.

Destruction of Churchill portrait

From Sir Harold Harding

Sir, Today (January 13) a leading article is headed "The Loss of a Masterpiece", while on page 1 the remark of Sir Winston Churchill is quoted, "Here is an old man, his memory fading and his powers of expression and reasoning fading." Possibly many of us feel that, as always, Sir Winston found the perfect phrase.

If the BBC were to show the presentation ceremony again, all could see what he really looked like at the time, both lively and courteous, when faced with a picture which spoils, for him, a deeply moving occasion and left permanent distress.

Parliament intended the gift to show gratitude and affection. The artist used his skill with the brush (in which Sir Winston was also a master) in his own idiosyncratic manner. Was he insensitive to the intention of the gift and the feelings of the sitter? We are told that the destruction of the canvas was vandalism as it would be worth £100,000. To whom? What an enormous occasion and left permanent distress.

Well done, loyal Lady Churchill. Yours faithfully,
HAROLD HARDING,
37 Monmouth Street,
Topham,
Exeter,
January 13.

As footnote to the above, soon after I had viewed the portrait I visited Arthur Jeffries, the art dealer, who told me that a portrait of him by Sutherland had actually been begun and "laid in" on the canvas the artist then used for Churchill—not that it mattered, for that initial sketch was undetectable. Jeffries asked me not to mention this in print and I didn't until some six years later after he had died. As I said then it would have been another reason for the Old Man to have disliked the portrait though by that time apparently it did not exist.

Yours, etc.,
G. S. WHITTEY, former Editor
of Studio and Studio International,
2 Harrow Road,
Camberley,
Surrey,
January 14.

From Major Sidney Vines

Sir, Sir Winston Churchill's expressed concern in Mr Sutherland about the "faded part under his chin" invites comparison with Oliver Cromwell's remarks to Lely: "Pain me as I am. If you leave out the scars and wrinkles, I will not pay you a shilling."

I am, Sir, Sidney VINES,
Army and Navy Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
January 13.

The pity is that Mr Sutherland could not have painted Sir Winston in 1940—that portrait would indeed have become part of the nation's heritage. I don't know whether the destroyed portrait, showing Sir Winston tired, old, defeated, and physically marred by "Time's fell hand" (though it may well be a great work of art), is a serious loss to the nation.

I am, Sir,
Yours, etc.,
SIDNEY VINES,
Army and Navy Club,
Pall Mall, SW1,
January 13.

From Mr P. D. R. Talbot Willcox

Sir, Some will lament with you the loss of a picture. More will rejoice that Lady Churchill's act "shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" and of the unshakable love she bore her husband.

I for one salute her now. Yours faithfully,
P. D. R. TALBOT WILLCOX,
Thamescroft,
Sharnley Green,
Surrey,
January 13.

From Mr Michael Wishart

Sir, Mr Graham Sutherland is arguably among the most penetrating portrait painters of our time. Is it not sad that Lady Spencer-Churchill, who bequeathed her eyes to a hospital in the hope that two persons' vision might be better than one, should have deprived posterity of Mr Sutherland's vision of her late illustrious husband?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WISHART,
Park Farm,
Pulborough,
Sussex,
January 14.

Without qualification

From Mr Kenneth Marshall

Sir, I read with great interest your first leader of December 29 "Out of work after school", and would agree with many of your conclusions.

You state that on the whole the present generation is more highly educated than its predecessors and this is, of course, true. In the present circumstances it is not, however, so much the employment prospects of well qualified youngsters which are giving us cause for concern in Kent—and I suspect, in other parts of the country—but those of the less able and unqualified. At one time there were jobs which could be undertaken by such boys and girls on leaving school; nowadays, these jobs have virtually ceased to exist and the bulk of the unemployed

young people on the registers of the careers service in this country are those with little or nothing to offer in the way of qualifications. If this country is again to become economically prosperous it will need all the skilled technicians and technologists it can educate and train—but what of those young persons who are unable to benefit from further education and training? These are not four or five fully engaging their interests and energies in making a contribution to society it is in them, as you say, that there are the makings of a major social problem in the next decade.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MARSHALL,
Chairman, Careers Sub-committee,
Education Committee,
Kent County Council,
Springfield Maidstone, Kent.

Selling potatoes by name

From Brigadier E. B. Forster

Sir, In your issue of Wednesday, January 11, Dr P. V. E. McClintock wrote about the "scant regard for legality" involved in the retail sale of potatoes without the variety being named, and asked what the Potato Marketing Board was going to do about it.

I would assure Dr McClintock that there is no law in this country which requires a retailer to name the variety of potatoes which he sells, nor has the PMB any powers whatever in relation to retailers.

What has happened is that following the Consumers' Committee for Great Britain Report in May 1977, and after consultation with the various sections of the industry involved, the Potato Marketing Board gave advance notice that from March 1, 1978, all registered producers and packers

of potatoes would be required compulsorily to mark the variety of the potato on the sack. The necessary prescriptions, etc. are about to be issued. It will then be up to retailers, whose various associations have welcomed the step, to use the information and meet the wishes of consumers.

Dr McClintock mentions "the trusty King Edward". He should take heart as no EEC legislation has condemned this variety to oblivion. Because it is a variety which is not immune to wart disease, our government did propose some years ago banning its growth in gardens and allotments because of difficulties of control. This proposal was withdrawn, however, and in any case, did not apply to farmers.

Yours faithfully,
E. B. FORSTER, General Manager,
Potato Marketing Board,
50 Hans Crescent, SW1.

Recruiting pilots

From Dr Andrew Miller

Sir, Less than three years ago we were told that the RAF was getting rid of 600 pilots. (Some senior technicians were also discharged but not a single administrator.) Predictably we now read that the RAF is short of pilots and that it will cost £500,000 to train each one.

Unfortunately there is no system of accountability to deal with costly mistakes of this kind. However, would it not be possible to recover some of the 600 pilots previously discarded? Financial inducements to return would be a lot cheaper than training new pilots.

Yours, etc.,
A. P. MILLAR,
Benson, Oxford.

Behaving like animals

From Mrs Elspeth Huxley

Sir, I do wish people would stop saying, as Mr Parry did about the "militant" firemen, "they behaved like animals", who humans put on a particularly ill-managed, stupid and aggressive display. Animals do not mob and attempt to trample on each other who annoyed, or get angry when one of their number finds a greener patch of grass than another. Normally they kill only for food, and I do not suppose the firemen wanted to eat Mr Parry. They were behaving not like animals, but like humans.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH HUXLEY,
Grease End,
Oaksey, Malmesbury,
Wiltshire,
January 13.

DEVOLUTION ON THE NOD

The House of Commons will resume consideration of the Scotland Bill today amidst a swelling chorus of complaint about the effects of the guillotine. Many of the criticisms are by now familiar, though no less disturbing for that: many clauses, some of them including important and complex provisions, are being passed either with no debate at all or after the most perfunctory examination. That is no way to deal with a constitutional measure of this consequence, but in most instances there is the consolation that whatever may be passed on the nod by the Commons may still be debated with care in the Lords. Indeed, the more casually any clause has been treated in the Commons the more justification there will be for the Lords taking time over it.

But that consolation would not seem to be available in the case of the financial sections of the Bill. Erskine May, the bible of parliamentary practice, declares that the Commons treat

as a breach of privilege by the Lords not only the imposition or increase of taxation or expenditure "but also any alteration, whether by increase or reduction, of its amount or of its duration, mode of assessment, levy, collection, appropriation or management; and, in addition, any alteration to respect of the persons who pay, receive, manage, or control it, or in respect of the limits within which it is leviable". That would seem to preclude the Lords from doing much about the financial sections of the Bill. If the Commons fail to do that job then nobody else can do it for them.

What is particularly disturbing is that the details of the financial clauses—just the sort of question that needs careful scrutiny at the committee stage—are critical to the success of the whole devolution scheme. If there is a running battle between Edinburgh and Westminster it is more likely to be over money than anything else. The obvious tactic for any Scottish administration would be

for it to transfer responsibility for its failings by claiming that it had not been given a fair share of resources by London. There is probably no arrangement that could be a sure safeguard against that danger, but the more cumbersome and muddled the financial procedures are the greater the threat will be. The financial provisions in this Bill are a distinct improvement upon those in the Scotland and Wales Bill that was killed last session. But they are still by no means perfect and would benefit from searching scrutiny.

It is hard to see how they are now to receive this. Most of the financial clauses have now been passed without debate. But the Government would be wise to ensure that either by setting aside time for the consideration of new clauses or by some other device time is found for the Commons to consider the financial provisions. That would not seriously delay the Bill but would improve the chances of implementing it successfully.

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January 12.

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Yours faithfully,
HILARY MACASKILL,
19 Framfield Road, NS,
January 11.

TOWARDS CIVILIAN RULE IN ECUADOR

After nearly six years of tight control by the armed forces, Ecuador has now taken the first step towards a return to civilian rule. In a referendum on Sunday, the electorate gave majority support to a new constitution, and this will be used as the basis for a presidential election in July. The country thus joins the small group of Latin American nations—including Peru and Bolivia—which are making the transition from military rule, and the process will be watched with some interest. It is not likely to be particularly smooth, as was shown by the arrest over the weekend of Señor Assad Bucaram, one of the leading presidential candidates, and the members of opposition parties. The armed forces would early like to see Señor Bucaram defeated, but that will not necessarily spoil his chances.

Ecuador is a small and as a rule poor country, with a population of some seven million, many of them Indians, divided between the Andes and the coastal plain. It has been remark-

able for the number of its political coups—more than fifty in 155 years of independence—and for having about twenty different political parties today. In recent years its economy has been transformed by the discovery of oil, which has earned it its membership of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and brought a considerable inflow of funds. Today oil has easily overtaken bananas as its main export, and new buildings are sprouting up in Quito, the capital, high in the Andes, and Guayaquil, its main port and largest city.

The armed forces took over in 1972 largely because they were afraid that Señor Bucaram would win a presidential election due later that year. By all accounts, they disapproved of the fact that he had been born in Lebanon and also that as mayor of Guayaquil he had developed a considerable following by his populist policies. He had made a point of helping many of the poor people who had settled in Guayaquil from other parts of

the country; and he still claims he will win in July with the votes of "the hungry". His opponents say that there is more opportunism than ideology in his politics.

His main opponent is likely to be a very different type of man, Señor Sixto Durán Ballén, the mayor of Quito, who is American-educated and a believer in free enterprise. But much will depend on the manoeuvrings of the next few months—among other things, the plans of the military junta to reduce the parties to four main groups. The new constitution, which was chosen by the electorate in preference to a modified version of the previous one, gives the vote for the first time to illiterates, thought to account for 30 per cent of the population. It also prohibits any president from standing for a second term. This was thought to be necessary because of the past record of Señor José María Velasco Ibarra, now living in exile in Buenos Aires, who was elected five times and ousted by the armed forces four times.

we all accepted them in the Burnham negotiations of those years. The NUT has made it clear that it supports the need to deal with the erosion of differentials which took place as a result of incomes policy.

The Teachers' Panel pay claim is for a 12½ per cent pay increase for teachers. Clearly, different organizations will have different ideas about the precise way in which that 12½ per cent should be distributed, but this will be discussed at a later meeting.

You do say that the pay claim decided on January 10 was the result of amicable and constructive discussion between the different unions and so it is a pity, in put mildly, that you should erect dissension in the columns of your newspaper.

Yours faithfully,
FRED JARVIS,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mabledon Place, WCI,
January 13.

Teachers' pay

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, I should be grateful for the opportunity of making clear some points in relation to the Teachers' and pay claim agreed on January 10.

Your report on January 11 stated that the claim would "maintain differentials between different teaching scale posts but, except for those earning above £8,500, will do nothing to restore the differentials that existed before the introduction of the pay policy". Your report on January 12 says that some teachers' organizations "would be pressing for a restoration of the pay differentials as laid down in the Houghton Committee report three years ago."

My press statement, as leader of the Teachers' Panel, after the meeting on January 10 said that "the Teachers' Panel is determined to restore the real value of teachers' pay established by the Houghton report". My statement also re-

ferred to various other matters involving restructuring and correction of anomalies that would be pursued.

I must emphasize that the unanimous policy of the Teachers' Panel is therefore to restore the Houghton values and I do not see why this should have been presented as some kind of conflict between the NUT and the other teachers' organizations.

Your report on January 12 says that "salary scale differentials have been progressively eroded during the Government's pay policy because the NUT has pressed for, and won, mainly flat rate increases for all teachers." That is not so. The last two pay policies provided for, respectively, flat rate increases of 26 per cent, and a minimum increase of £2.50 per week and a maximum increase of £4 per week.

It was the terms of those pay policies, not the action of the NUT in Burnham, which have eroded the differentials. We had our misgivings about aspects of the policies, but

we all accepted them in the Burnham negotiations of those years. The NUT has made it clear that it supports the need to deal with the erosion of differentials which took place as a result of incomes policy.

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January 13.

Helping to stem the tide of pollution

"Dear President Carter", wrote the letter accompanying the 10ft-high Coca-Cola can handed over to the American Embassy last Wednesday, "we are sending you this can from Britain on the same day that environmentalists in the United States and elsewhere in the world will be sending you theirs". Friends of the Earth went on to urge the President to help the fight against pollution by putting a deposit on all beer and soft drinks containers.

There are many ways of caring for the environment, and making the White House knee-high in empty cans is just one. Those who missed the friends of the Earth demonstration can still get in on the act by joining one of the many pressure groups that attempt to keep the different types of pollution — from visual to radioactive — at bay. One way of supporting the work of the Keep Britain Tidy Group (Boswell House, 37 West Street, Brighton BN1 2RE, tel: 0273 23585) is to refrain from hurling rubbish out of your car windows, and another is to send the group a donation. The group distributes a schools learning kit, organizes film shows, leans on local authorities and industry as regards litter prevention, and publishes *Tidy Times*; any voluntary help is accepted.

A form of pollution that is less obvious — until the moment when swimming at sea, we are confronted by a sheet of lavatory paper — is sewage. The Coastal Anti-Pollution League (Alverstoke, Greenway Lane, Bath BA2 4LN, tel: 0225 317094) considers it a "disgusting state of affairs" that a large number of seaside towns dispose of their untreated sewage far too close to land. It publishes its "Golden List of Beaches", with details of what volume of effluent holidaymakers can expect to find, and has persuaded EEC officials to chase our Department of the Environment over the inspection of the cleanliness or otherwise of beaches.

We all have the option of avoiding polluted beaches, but there are few options open to those who wish to refrain from breathing. Air is increasingly polluted by the action of anyone who drives a car, hence the existence of a spin-off from the Conservation Society, entitled the Campaign Against Lead in Petrol (168 Dora Road, London, SW19, tel: 01-946 7542 and 01-330 2134). Despite official reassurances that all is well, the campaign feels that the 11,000 tons of lead carried by petrol fumes every year is not a healthy diet for infants, and wants to see lead-free petrol.

Excessive noise is another element of modern life that it is hard to avoid, except by buying ear defenders ("reduce noise by up to 40 decibels") from the Noise Abatement Society (6 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3TA, tel: 01-493 5877). The society uses the law to protect the public, and its members, from aural pollution and provides sound level meters and films on the literally deafening effect of factory noise. It campaigns for all new buildings to be properly insulated, and awards its Seal of Quietness where credit to manufacturers is due.

Aeroplanes are among the worst offenders on the noise scale, as the inhabitants of West London and environs will agree. The Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise (123 Park Road, London, W4, Tel: 01-994 0093) wants to see, or rather, hear, quieter landing procedures, phasing out of noisy planes, an end to expansion of Heathrow and the banning of night flights. All this may be uphill work, but the association is at least a method of channelling some of the furious energy produced in every household under the flightpath.

While it is the noise from the big commercial jets which receives most of the publicity, light aircraft and

helicopters can also blight the lives of those suffering their din, according to the Airfields Environment Federation (Upton Hollies, The Avenue, South Nutfield, Surrey RH1 5RY). "People can be driven to uncharacteristic excesses by the distress and frustration caused by aircraft noise; we aim to direct that emotion towards finding solutions acceptable both to aircraft users and those on the ground."

Equally strong feelings are aroused over the latest pollution to be brought to us by modern technology — radioactivity. Pressure groups set up to combat expansion of the nuclear power programme have been proliferating like fast breeder reactors, so it must suffice to mention just one, Half Life (82 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancs, tel: 0524 412674). This group seeks to make public the awesome implications of the nuclear power programme, and urges the merits of alternative forms of energy. As the success of the whole anti-nuclear lobby in causing a fuss at Windscale demonstrated, it is more profitable to make your voice heard than to sit at home grumbling quietly to yourself.

Jonathan Sale



Criteria for a Christian approach to sexual behaviour

Two debates on sexual morality at consecutive sessions of the General Synod of the Church of England might seem like excessive interest, but it is an accurate reflection of the amount of attention that sex is now receiving in the churches.

The Methodist Church has commissioned a study of human sexuality, the results of which are expected to be controversial. The Church of England is about to embark on a study in addition to current studies on marriage and on homosexuality, and the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales is awaiting the results of a working party on the pastoral care of homosexuals.

In the religious weekly press hardly a week passes without further outbreaks of controversy on one aspect or another. Yet it is a subject on which few church leaders would venture to make categorical assertions unless of a purely traditional kind.

For long the subject was too hot to handle. The furor that followed the British Council of Churches' statement on sexual ethics in the mid-1960s, and the deep division exposed in the Roman Catholic Church by *Humanae Vitae*, seemed to warn off all but the foolhardy.

The incessant homosexual lobby within the churches had been pressing for a reevaluation of its particular case, without much success, but that may well have triggered off the Vatican's 1975 Declaration on Sexual Ethics which, in turn, appears to have triggered off numerous other studies.

The most monumental and far-reaching essay in that field so far is the report of the Catholic Theological Society of America, *Human Sexuality: New Directions in Catholic Thought*, which was published in America last year and is to appear in three weeks' time in the United Kingdom (Search Press, £4.95).

The study was started with the approval of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States, but they have dissociated themselves from the results.

Like *Proposals for a New Sexual Ethic* by Dr J. Dominion (Darton, Longman and Todd, £1.50) which was published in Britain last year, the American document is rooted in the Roman Catholic tradition of moral theology and purports to be a valid development of that tradition.

That gives it great advantages over non-Roman Catholic studies. For classical Christian sexual ethics stem almost exclusively from the pre-Reformation church and were little affected by the great theological controversies of the sixteenth century.

Dr Dominion's background is in clinical work with marriage breakdown, while the American team is academically based and therefore more theoretical. Both the theological association which backed it and the membership of the team itself are of the highest repute.

It is notable that without any evidence of cross-fertilization, the two exercises have reached very similar conclusions.

Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

If you're looking for a low tar cigarette surely it makes sense to smoke Silk Cut.

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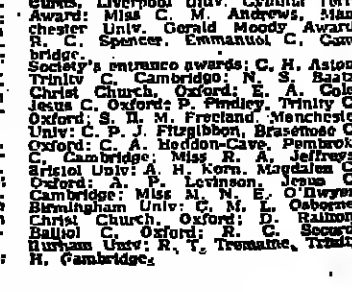
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سكوت سيلك



Wearside team hopes to settle £52m India ship deal this weekend

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Attempts will be made this weekend to complete the £52m shipbuilding deal with India which is to be financed out of United Kingdom aid.

The Shipping Corporation of India has invited top executives from Sunderland Shipbuilders, headed by Mr. Jim Gilfillan, chairman and chief executive, for talks in Bombay on the proposed contract for six 16,500 tons deadweight multi-purpose cargo ships.

The Wearside group has been pursuing the contract for more than 18 months and Mr. Gilfillan said last night that the invitation to visit Bombay indicated encouraging prospects. "It is hoped that full technical specifications will be finalised next week, possibly the final step before signing of the contract," he said.

The deal, which was discussed by Mr. Callaghan during his visit to India last week, has also attracted the attention of an all-party committee of MPs who next week are to question Mrs. Judith Hart, Minister of State for Overseas Development, on the terms.

In a survey* of the new building market last year, Fairplay International said of the Indian deal: "It seems to offer like this that days of fair competition have gone forever and further emphasizes what a buyer's paradise it is when desperation rules."

*The Newbuilding Market 1977, Fairplay International, £20.

Threat to Polish order

Swan Hunter shipbuilding yards on the Tyne, recently awarded a share of a big Polish order, ran into fresh trouble yesterday when 3,500 boiler makers voted to end their present working agreement from Thursday.

They are giving up the flexibility and interchangeability achieved between their trades to improve production and returning to the old principle of "one man, one job".

This is their reaction to the cutting back of their longstand-

ing pay differentials following recent £5.40 "fair wages" award to the company's 1,700 outworkers.

The main grievance is that they gave up many of their level of earnings, but the outworkers have been asked to give nothing away in return for the £5.40.

Mr. John Chalmers, general secretary of the Boilermakers' Society, appealed to the men at yesterday's meeting at Newcastle not to end their agreement.

Brokers charged with stealing from clients

Clients of a London stock-broking firm lost nearly 100,000 shares when the firm collapsed after the shares had been pledged—without permission—as security for bank loans, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

Five former partners in the firm of Chapman and Rowe, and the former managing clerk, had pledged clients' shares without their knowledge.

Mr. Neil Denison, prosecuting, said that the firm went bust on the Stock Exchange in April, 1974.

The five former partners, Mr. Victor Thomas Andrews, 33; Mr. John Maxwell Gordon, 38; Mr. Ralph Clarke, 49; Mr. Alan Harman, 34; Mr. George Edward Miller, 38; and Mr. John Michael Goodsell, 35, the former managing clerk, all deny 10 charges of theft and fraud.

They are charged with conspiring between September 1973 and April 1974 to defraud clients by using their stocks and shares, without authority, as security for loans.

They are also charged with stealing 98,225 shares from clients and presenting a false balance sheet.

In the last six months of its existence the firm produced a balance sheet purporting to show that it was solvent when it was not, said Mr. Denison.

"The result was that by the time the firm was liquidated in April, it had decided to make delivery of all the gold shares it had sold but would have had to find something a little in excess of a quarter of a million pounds," said Mr. Denison.

The hearing was adjourned until today.



Mr. Callaghan presenting The Sunday Times award for export success to Mr. John Fordham, chairman and managing director of Crow Hamilton, of Glasgow, at 10 Downing Street last night.

Toy makers optimistic over sales

By Our Commercial Editor

Despite a marginal decline in attendances by retail and wholesale buyers on the opening day of the biggest ever British Toy and Hobby Fair at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, major toy manufacturers yesterday were more optimistic about sales than for the last two years.

After an indifferent year for manufacturers' sales, last

Christmas finally cleared many days of the fair justify more optimism about manufacturers' stocks at the retail level and orders taken in the first two sales this year. Mr. Joe Blake, chairman of the British Toy Manufacturers' Association (BTMA), committee organizing the skatboard phenomenon looks likely to run for another year at its present level of some two million units in 12 months,

according to Europe's largest skateboard manufacturer Morris Vulcan of Solihull, near Birmingham.

Mr. Derek Morris, managing director of this private company, said his group sold nearly a million units last year at from £5 to £50.

The fair next year will switch to Earls Court, London, after only two years at Birmingham, the BTMA announced.

Call for disclosure on loans by deposit-taking groups

By Our Financial Staff

The Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies has called for further information about short-term loans and advances by deposit-taking companies. In its memorandum Accounting Regulations for Deposit-Taking Companies, the CCAB has recommended that the Department of Trade extend its existing disclosure proposals.

The Committee feels that the Department's White Paper The Licensing and Supervision of Deposit-Taking Institutions, published by the Treasury in August 1976, should be extended so that accounts disclose the amount of deposits repayable within seven days.

They should also show the amount of loans to and by the deposit-taking company repayable within seven days. Fur-

ther, total amounts received from or payable to other deposit-taking institutions should be distinguished from other loans and deposits.

Regarding loans to directors of deposit-taking companies, the Committee advises that the restrictions imposed by section 190 of the Companies Act, 1948 should be extended to cover the concept of "directly and indirectly" presently contained in section 5, thus making it unlawful "for a company to make a loan, directly or indirectly, to any person who is a director of its holding company".

All loans should be on an arm's length basis as to amount, security and interest and whether secured or unsecured—although the Committee accepts that the definition of arm's length needs further consideration.

Weetabix granted interim price rise

By Patricia Tisdall

The Weetabix breakfast cereal company whose prices are being investigated by the Price Commission has been granted an interim price increase.

An application granted under the safeguard regulations of the price control legislation gives it an overall average weighted

increase of 6.36 per cent over the Weetabix range of breakfast products, and of 6.46 per cent across Alpen and other Muesli products.

The increases mean approximately 1p to 1p on a packet containing 12 Weetabix biscuits; 1p to 2p on a 24 biscuit packet and 2p to 3p on a 48 biscuit

packet.

Weetabix was informed of the Commission's decision on Friday and new trade price lists were issued on the same day. The interim increase allowed is understood to be below that originally applied for, but the company would not say by how much.

Business inventories up \$1,530m in US

Business inventories rose a seasonally-adjusted \$1,530m or 0.5 per cent in November, the Commerce Department said.

November inventories total an adjusted \$331,990m in November, up from \$330,460m in October. The October figure was \$950m.

TRADE VOLUMES AND TERMS OF TRADE

The following are the only volume index numbers for visible trade seasonally adjusted, and the terms of trade index, non-seasonally adjusted, issued by the Department of Trade yesterday:

		1970 = 100	Terms of Trade*	
		Exports Volume	Imports Volume	
1976		136.6	134.3	80.1
1977	p	148.4	142.3	81.7
1977	Q1	141.9	142.4	80.4
	Q2 r	149.9	144.8	80.1
	Q3 r	153.7	142.0	81.5
	Q4 p	148.0	139.9	84.8
1977				
July	r	153.5	149.3	79.6
Aug	r	152.0	131.9	82.0
Sept	r	155.7	144.9	83.0
Oct	r	150.0	140.4	83.9
Nov	r	142.9	133.2	85.3
Dec	p	151.2	146.2	85.3

* revised
p provisional
p export unit value index as a percentage of the import unit value index.

UK TRADE

The following are the December trade figures seasonally adjusted and corrected on a balance of payments basis with allowances for known recording errors:

	Exports	Imports	Visible balance
£m	£m	£m	£m
1976	25,418	28,387	-3,971
1977	32,714	33,831	-1,117
1977 Q1	7,467	8,365	-898
Q2	7,778	8,778	-1,000
Q3	8,423	8,467	-44
Q4	8,239	8,201	+38
1977	2,448	2,462	-14
Dec	2,479	3,017	-538
Jan	2,437	2,625	-188
Feb	2,548	2,795	-247
Mar	2,512	2,869	-357
Apr	2,727	3,006	-279
May	2,733	2,978	-245
June	2,796	2,860	-64
July	2,807	2,823	-16
Aug	2,771	2,725	+46
Sept	2,830	2,578	+252
Oct	2,818	2,698	+120

* revised
p provisional

RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for retail sales released by the Department of Industry:

	Sales by volume	Percentage change	Sales by value	Percentage change
	1971=100	annual	1971=100	annual
1975	108.3	-1.5	+16	
Dec 1977	106.7	-2.1	+12	
Jan	105.7	-6.8	+15	
Feb	103.1	-11.8	+14	
March	103.4	-14.0	+12	
April	104.4	-12.7	+15	
May	103.8	-4.1	+14	
June	107.0	+4.3	+18	
July	107.2	+10.9	+18	
Aug	106.2	+11.8	+14	
Sept	105.4	+4.6	+13	
Oct	105.1	+0.4	+11	
Nov	109.5	+1.5	+16	
Dec				

p provisional

Sir Alex Smith

As the result of a printing error, Sir Alex Smith, chairman of the Schools Council, was inaccurately reported yesterday in some remarks about the attitudes of young people towards industry. What he actually said was: "Much of the alienation of young people happens because of their feeling that there is no moral dimension in our industrial/commercial culture."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Measuring export competitiveness

From Mr. Shaun Stewart

Sir, The conclusion in Melvyn Westlake's article (January 10) on export competitiveness that we still have room for manoeuvre is untenable because the true position is much worse than would appear from the Treasury figures on which he was relying.

The IMF index of relative unit labour costs and the Treasury index of relative wholesale prices would be relevant only if it is true that export costs and prices sooner or later rise or fall by the same amount as domestic costs and prices, or vice versa. The international monetarists assume there is such a relationship, but the figures and common observation show that there is no such relationship and for the very good reason that economies of scale are very much more significant in export industries, particularly in manufacturing, than in the economy generally.

This means that a country with a favourable exchange rate can remain competitive at home even when its costs and prices generally are rising faster than those of other countries. The converse

is true of countries like the United Kingdom with an unfavourable rate.

The same objection applies to the Treasury comparison between wholesale and export prices. The difference between the two is not a measure of the relative profitability of exports, as the figures for 1953-67 show unquestionably.

The comparison is in any case invalidated by the use of unit values as a measure of the level of export prices. These have ceased to be reliable because of changes in the pattern of trade. A comparison based on average values would show that even in the fourth quarter of 1976 wholesale prices had risen more than both import and export prices since 1970, itself a year of import-led stagnation.

The index of relative export prices is also defective because it is based on unit values and because it takes no account of (i) tariff changes on entry to the EEC and (ii) goods which have been priced out of the market.

The best measure of competitiveness for managing the exchange rate is the terms of trade for manufactures. The pattern of trade is much the

same and the competitor imports is broadly representative of the competition seas. The series is more relevant than any other in indicating what has happened market place.

The fact that our share world trade has recently increased is no more than a reflection of (i) the fall in the exchange rate in October, 1976, (ii) the fact that exports to (as well as from) the EEC are free trade and (iii) the fact that our exports are affected by the slowing of growth in other industrial countries. However, our prices have risen by 1 cent and 25 per cent, compared to the German and the United over the last 12 months. The month that passes position gets worse. Our deficit with Germany approximately £1,300m manufactures is bound much worse.

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN STEWART,
The Old House,
Williams Hill,
EICHINGHAM,
East Sussex, TN19 7DB.

Look elsewhere for a trains conspiracy

From the Secretary of State for Transport

Sir, Mr. Richard Hope is a highly respected journalist. I normally read him with attention and regard. At the moment, however, he seems to have lost his head in pursuing a conspiracy theory.

First, he claimed in *The Times* last Wednesday the existence of a confidential letter in which I am supposed to have instructed Mr. Peter Parker, the chairman of the British Railways Board, about how he should deal with a management matter concerning Type 56 locomotives and productivity. Mr. Parker wrote to you the following day and said that there was no such letter. It should be unnecessary for me to confirm this, but I do.

But now Mr. Hope has returned to the fray. He says (*The Times*, January 13) that following the publication of his article he sent for Mr. Parker to ask him to explain the matter. Mr. Hope is wrong again. If he had examined my diary, he would have seen that an appointment with Mr. Parker for that afternoon had been fixed some days before.

I am ready to admit—and I trust that such openness will not embarrass Mr. Hope, it should flatter him—that the first item in our discussion was Mr. Hope's article. I admit also that we were both rather angry—but with Mr. Hope, not with each other.

There may seem relatively trifling matters to some of your readers. What is serious and distressing is that an attempt has been made to cast doubt on the proper exercise of my responsibilities as Minister in relation to a nationalized industry and the proper exercise by a chairman of his managerial responsibilities. We frequently discuss matters of common concern and share an ambition to give the railways a secure and significant future. Perhaps there are those who regret this and that a Minister and a chairman get on so remarkably well. If there is a conspiracy, Mr. Hope might be justified in looking for it elsewhere.

WILLIAM RODGERS,
Department of Transport,
2 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 3EB.

thought of only one man at the controls of any train. Good though the safety record of our railways may be, accidents due to driver error have occurred many times in the past, and there is no reason to think that they will not continue to do so. It is not difficult to recall accidents that have occurred recently due to a mistake by a train driver.

In my view there should be two men in the cab; the concept of one man being a second man ought to be abolished. He should be replaced by a co-driver in the fullest sense of the word, and with full responsibility for any driver error which is not corrected until it is too late. In the event of any accident resulting from failure to observe signals or speed limits, then both driver and co-driver should be held equally to blame.

There is a choice between maximum economy and the greatest practical safety. One of the railway's greatest virtues is its safety. Although it did not occur on British Railways, would the Moorgate disaster have been possible if the train had had two men in the driving cab?

My argument is not weakened because there were driver errors on steam locomotives despite the presence of a fireman; the fireman was in no way a second man or co-driver, he was mostly occupied entirely by his own job, and the driver stood alone. He hardly ever made a disastrous mistake, but if he did there was little chance of him being corrected in time; this situation need not prevail today for the sake of economy in a rich country with one and a half million unemployed.

R. A. CASTLE,
High Stile,
Dunmow,
Essex, CM6 1EB.

From Mr. A. Sandman
Sir, "How many men in the train drivers cab?"

The real answer is that there should be none at all! Some years ago I put forward proposals in the now defunct *Control* magazine which would have led to the total automation of the railways. There was an exchange of correspondence between myself and a member of the British Railways research laboratory at, if memory serves, Derby.

I now understand why so little progress has been made in spite of talk of lorry-sized, self-powered wagons, automatically steering themselves across country.

The unions simply wouldn't wear it, it seems.

A. SANDMAN,
57 Primrose Hill Court,
King Henry's Road,
NW3.

Viewdata inventor joins Insac

Mr. Sam Fedida, head of the computer and mathematics division of the Post Office Research Centre, Martlesham, is joining Insac Data Systems, the National Enterprise Board's subsidiary, on February 1 as a consultant.

Best known as the inventor of the Post Office's Viewdata system, which links telephone and television to provide a dial-up information service, Mr. Fedida will help Insac to develop its strategies and plans for entering the worldwide market for information systems.

Insac believes that this market will form the basis for significant exports of British software and systems. While working for the NEB subsidiary, Mr. Fedida will retain close links with the Post Office.

Mr. John Pearce, Insac managing director, said yesterday that information systems, including Viewdata, formed one of the main market areas for software products on which Insac was now concentrating. The other three were computer system software, applications packages, and communications.

"We're looking for significant new products in those four areas," he said. "I expect to see developments in all four over the next three to six months." Insac would either acquire existing products, or let contracts for the development of new ones.

Viewdata-type information systems were developed in three ways, Mr. Pearce said: for dental use, for closed network use, and as general-purpose information systems for large organizations.

Computer news

Meanwhile, one of Insac's member companies, Systima, the Leeds-based minicomputer systems company, has reported a 1977 turnover of £4.2m (from £2.8m in 1976) and profit of £476,308. Export sales during the year rose from £40,091 to £627,582.

It was during 1977 that the National Enterprise Board acquired 26 per cent of Systima's share capital and set up a £700,000 loan facility. Mr. John Parkinson, Systima chairman, describes this deal as "the most appropriate method of providing finance for continued growth."

In general, Mr. Parkinson comments, the NEB approach is aimed at building up centres of expertise in the key growth areas and allowing individual companies to expand from a firm financial base, rather than attempting a grand merger of the main companies.

Insac's other three member firms, in which the NEB holds equity stakes, are Computer Analysts & Programmers, SPL International, and Systems Designers.

US imports increasing

British purchases of American computer and peripheral equipment rose to \$1,200m (over £600m) by 1970, an increase of 70 per cent over the total for 1975, Mr. Charles Shaw, director of the United

Fuel cost adjustment

From Mr. R. W. Orson

Sir, As the Price Commission report on electricity duties on the whole raise controversy, it is not surprising that it is being covered by your Business News. I, however, disappointed that it did not include the Commission's statement that "it port comments favourable the efficiency with which industry meets consumer demand."

You did include the fact that the fuel cost adjustment system "could also be a venting way of passing on which might otherwise be a challenge to the consumer."

The "could" needs to be stressed, because the mission did not find that it used in this way. Yours faithfully,

R. W. ORSON,
Member,
The Electricity Council,
30 Millbank,
London, SW1P 4RD,
January 10.

Offshoot for Logica

Logica, the London software and systems house, has set up a subsidiary company to manufacture and support hardware products.

Known as Logica Systems, it will handle a main product line: a telex and telex message-switch computer; a new "intelligent" display unit; Logica's established data communication products.

The new company is headed by Mr. Bob Michaelson, formerly sales manager of Log systems engineering group.

Data heads expansion
Data Recording Reads, of the three operating subsidiaries of Data Recon Instrument Company, is to up a new factory at Pen near Falmouth, Cornwall.

DRB claims to be the largest manufacturer in Europe digital recording heads (in tape and disc-based computer data storage units, dispensers, credit-card read and instrumentation).
Kenneth On



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Europa

Carter blunders point to impotence Dollar's dangerous ride on the big dipper

At the end of December 1977 all the signs were that the dollar, which had lost 11 per cent against the Deutschmark and 10 per cent against the yen since July, would continue to slide. But few could have expected it to fall quite as fast as it did in the first few days of the new year, not only against the Deutschmark (up from 2.15 to 2.05 to the dollar) but also against sterling (from £1.92 to nearly £2) and even the franc (from 4.75 to 4.61 in the dollar).

Its subsequent rise was no less astonishing, and even more abrupt than its fall. On January 5 alone it regained some 5 per cent against the Deutschmark, thus wiping out virtually all its losses. Only the yen remained relatively stable at about 240 to the dollar.

Such violent movements call for some examination. While the dollar was being allowed to continue its steady decline, it was possible to accept that there was a degree of wilful negligence—far from benign, as the Americans would have one believe but undoubtedly and predominantly malignant, a convenient device whereby the trade deficit could be reduced either directly (by its effect on imports), or indirectly (through the reactions of their severely embarrassed Japanese and West German partners). This manoeuvre, although outstripped by events from time to time, was generally kept under control.

The same cannot be said, however, of the most recent adventures, which have left the impression of negligence and but of impotence and hence profound uncertainty. As we enter the new year, this is the most worrying aspect for all those who stand to suffer the consequences, from the most lowly exporting company, to whole economies through their trade balances and interest rates.

Governments and the business world have admittedly already experienced huge falls in the dollar's exchange value followed by equally large rises in recent years, notably in 1973, so that they have had an opportunity to get accustomed to them, steel their nerves and react more prudently. But the movements over recent weeks have been much more abrupt. The ups and downs have gathered momentum as on a big dipper, the favoured form of fairground entertainment of those who prefer maximum excitement.

It is dangerous to play such games with exchange rates, however. What is needed is a serious approach, backed by the necessary means of action. As matters stand the most powerful nation in the world would appear to lack the organization at the top to conduct its affairs efficiently.

Indeed, apart from the "objective" factors which have

accounted or at least created the conditions for the dollar's fall (trade deficit and surplus dollars), there is no getting away from the succession of blunders made by President Carter's team in their efforts to establish themselves as credible economic managers capable of coming to grips with the short term and making progress towards the medium-term objectives on the basis of which he was elected.

It is hoped that the President will quickly manage to regain control of events, at last laying down a coherent and credible policy, and that the statement he made recently in Paris about sustaining the dollar does not turn out to be another empty phrase as add to that of December 21, but proves to be a mark of his determination to see a change.

The first benefits of this could be felt by the United States itself, a country currently in the paradoxical position of having achieved an enviable growth rate (5 per cent) and kept inflation down to only 6.5 per cent during 1977, only to see the collapse of prices on Wall Street and the dissipation of business confidence. But the main advantages of a firmer dollar will benefit the other countries, which have been deprived of reliable reference points on which to plot their monetary and economic courses.

Maurice Bommensath

THE ECONOMY

	Growth (par cent) production (1)	Investment (2)	Wage increases (par cent) (3)	Budget deficit (3.4)	Stability trade balance (2.4)	Inflation rate par cent (1)
United States	2.5	7	8	(-3.8)	(-3.1)	4.5
West Germany	3	4	7	(-3.5)	(-3.86)	1
France	-3	1	12	(-1)	(-1.8)	8.5
Graat Britain	-1	6	5	(-5.5)	(-7)	6
Italy	-6	2	23	(10000)	(-120)	14

(1) Three month average expressed as annual rate.
(2) Estimate for 1977.
(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.
(4) As percentage of gnp end in national currency (000m).

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS

	Annual growth per cent in money supply (M1) (5)	Day 30 Day (6)	Prime rate (7)	Against dollar (6)	Against basket of 6 currencies (7)	Change in stock exchange per cent index (8)
Dollar	5.6	6.7	8	—	96.8	-3
Deutschmark	(7)	3.2	6	2.12	(97.9)	(+17)
Franc	(9)	8.9	9.3	(+3)	(117.2)	(+9)
Pound	(16)	7	6.5	1.93	90.6	+3
Lira	(21)	11	17	8.86	(76.1)	(-21)

(5) Three months average expressed as annual rate, figures in brackets % change over a year.
(6) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.
(7) End December 1975=100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed in table plus Japanese yen.
(8) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

Fresh Harcross stake jolt for Harrisons

Harrisons & Crossfield's embattled empire received another jolt yesterday when it was disclosed that McLeod Russell, Hume Holdings and Rothschild Investment Trust had built up a stake of 11.9 per cent of Harcross, for which H & C has already launched a bid.

The three companies added to their joint holding by purchasing 400,000 shares at an average price of 84p a share compared with T & H's revised bid of 62p cash.

Yesterday the three companies said they were reviewing their position.

McLeod Russell recently bid for another company in the H & C camp—Malayalam—but having built up a holding of just short of 30 per cent compared with the 23 per cent held by H & C and associates, has remained silent since H & C made its most recent counter offer.

H & C was forced into the bid for Harcross since it held directly and indirectly only 22 per cent (subsequently raised to 30.4 per cent) while Harcross holds a strategic position in the network of cross holdings in the H & C empire.

Airfix plans £5m expansion
The next stage of Airfix Industries' expansion is being financed by a £5m line of credit negotiated with Barclays Merchant Bank. This 10-year facility "has been arranged on competitive terms after the evaluation of various offers of finance."

The group has been through a rough patch with lower profits for the six months to September 30 while last month saw the receiver being called in to the Tri-ang Pedigree group which was three-quarters owned by Airfix.

Mr Ralph Ehrmann, the Airfix chairman, plans to expand the non-toy side—where profits are nearing £1m, and the overseas toy activities. He wants a 50-50 split on activities. A new factory for the Meccano and Dinky Toy products is also planned.

Forward Trust up 42 pc to £14.3m

Forward Trust, the finance house subsidiary of the Midland Bank, raised its profits by 42 per cent to a record £14.3m in the year to end October.

The higher profits are attributed by Mr John Cave, chairman, to greater turnover, a lower level of bad debts and improved efficiency in dealing with expanding new business levels. But a further important factor has been the decline in interest rates.

Turnover for new instalment finance at £247m was 45 per cent up on the previous year, reflecting enlarged market share. The balance sheet total rose from £250m to £338m.

Amaz sets aside as much as \$81m

Amaz has maintained its quarterly dividend of 431 cents a share, but it is to make a net \$81m provision, equivalent to \$2.50 a share, against the remaining investments in Africa—Botswana RST and Roan Consolidated Mines.

Amaz's earnings a share for 1977 are unlikely to be as much as \$3.50. The group's investment in RCM is to be reduced from \$34.9m to \$4.3m, its quoted market value at the end of last year. The total write-down includes Amaz's investment in BRST equity and subordinated indebtedness of \$91.7m. Amaz states that it "plans to continue to make strategic cash advances" to BRST if necessary.

LLOYDS & SCOTTISH
Group in good shape to deal with any difficulties which might arise, and poised to take advantage of opportunities.

PEACHEY PROPERTY
Allied London Properties sold 500,000 shares on January 5, reducing its holding to below 5 per cent.

Akroyd to trade gold shares again

Stock jobbers Akroyd & Smithers are to start trading in South African gold shares again in April. The decision follows the recent relaxation of exchange control regulations, which took the 25 per cent surcharge off dollar premium stocks.

Director Mr Tim Nixon said that dealings would initially be in the 15 leading stocks but it was hoped to expand into other shares at a later date.

Akroyd will become the second London jobbing firm to deal in these stocks and last night Smith Brothers, which has continued to trade in gold shares, welcomed the news.

"Increased competition enlarges the market and the addition of another jobber will be a helpful factor," they said.

Akroyd also notified The Stock Exchange yesterday that the directors, including chairman Mr David LeRoy-Lewis, have sold about 165,000 shares.

Mr Nixon told Business News that, because of the current legislation which prevents directors selling shares for most of the year, the board were taking advantage of one of the two periods allowed annually to sell part of their stakes.

The annual report and accounts show that last year the chairman reduced his beneficial holding from 193,800 to 143,800. He has now sold a further 43,800.

Burton set for 'modest' profit

Burton Group, the menswear retailer and property manager, reports that cumulative sales for the first 17 weeks of the year to August 27 are 7 per cent above the corresponding period last year, and if business sold or closed during the reorganization programme are excluded, the sales increase is 11 per cent.

Pre-tax losses last year amounted to £5.08m or £13.63m at the attributable level but the chairman, Mr Ladislav Rice, tells shareholders in his annual report that if present sales trends continue, we anticipate a modest profit in the first half-year.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Rally after trade news disappoints

Both equities and gilts were making up lost ground in late trading after being knocked by December trade figures which were well below most market estimates.

The 180m visible deficit compared with hopes of a surplus of up to £200m with the result that the FT index, 4.5 off at 3 pm, closed 6.7 lower at 474.2 after a widespread mark down. But of greater consideration and of the statement, especially the oil content of imports, most dealers felt that the initial reaction was overdone and after hours trading was characterised by small movements.

After a firm start there was a similarly nervous pattern in gilts. Once the trade news was out and worst fears confirmed prices were marked down by around three-eighths at the London end of the range. Dealers said that some loose stock then came out but was resold by jobbers within a matter of minutes. Prices then came a quarter of a point off the high, three-eighths lower on the day. Shorter dates also closed lower, the worst with falls of around a quarter.

Stores were a weak spot yesterday with shares registering falls of up to 8p.

The sector drifted lower in the morning ahead of the December retail sales figures which, at 3.2 per cent above the November level, were much in line with expectations. In patchy trading GUS 'A' shed 8p to 290p, Boots ended 5p lower at 217p and Allied Retailers fell a similar amount to 180p. British Home Stores at 208p, Wall Street and the discounter Marks & Spencer, at 152p slipped two or three pence.

However, the forecast increase in consumer spending some brokers expect the shares in this sector to have a good run up to the Budget.

Those who thought UDT's sale last month of its 25.5 per cent stake in Henry Wigfall effectively ended takeover speculation in the electrical retailer could be in for a surprise. Though no purchaser ended up with more than two per cent of the shares, the report renewed a flurry of interest which boosted the shares 8p to 163p and put them in the list of active counters.

The mail order houses, whose season peaks in November and are therefore not so affected by the December figures, fell in sympathy leaving Freeman's down 2p at 268p and Grattan Warehouse a penny off at 140p. Empire Stores (Bradford) lost 3p to 175p.

Dixon's Photographic shed a further 3p to 157p ahead of Thursday's results. Many analysts have been downgrading their forecasts, but Mr John Green, of brokers, McNally, Montgomery is confident that

the group will make up some of the lost ground in the second half leaving hopes for the year to April 30, 1978, at around £10m, against a previous £3.7m.

On the bid front Pride & Clarke shot up 25p to 515p on news of a bid from Inchcape, valued at 525p a share. The stock had been suspended at 260p last Friday.

Isaacs for London Pavilion pushed the shares up to a high of 54 giving them a premium of 50p over the bid price while Piccadilly Theatre added 6p to 86p on the back of this rise. Fading hopes of improved trading led to a sharp drop in the 23p from the share price which ended the day at 60p.

An announcement that bid talks were in progress at Liner Concrete, one of the day's active stocks, added 8p to shares at 38p. Although Ferguson Industrial has a near 30 per cent stake in Liner there is some talk of another suitor hoping to pick up the holding. Following speculative rises last week International Timber went 4p down to 127p and Glyndwed slipped a penny to 105p.

Of the companies reporting, buoyant figures from Brad Group boosted the shares 3p to 431p, while J. B. Eastwood, at 98p, lost 8p on poor figures and a pessimistic forecast.

Of the "blue chips" double figure losses were recorded by Glaxo 10p to 533p and Metal Box 10p to 300p. Though many of the prices edged ahead a penny or two after hours at the official close ICI were 6p off at 334p, Unilever a similar amount down to 520p and BAT Industries 5p lower at 270p. But there was a firm bid from Courtauld's which held firm at 119p just a penny off.

Over on the engineering pitch compensation hopes and a background of good contracts lifted Vespene 7p to 157p, while another firm counter was to be found in John Brown which was boosted 6p to 239p by some favourable weekend comment.

There was more than average interest in electrical shares, ICI continued to benefit from its recent review gaining another 8p to 264p, but Thorn continued

to reflect the disappointment at last week's figures by losing another 10p to 352p. In some sympathy with this Decca slipped 10p to 465p but R & G Crossland spurred 8p to 37p on news of an approach.

The Vickers just should not be allowed to obscure the compensation scope in Vespene. Against the trend the shares rose 7p to 157p, making a 21p gain so far this month, and a new 1977-78 peak. Even so, the group's market value of £8.8m compares with the £8m of nearly profits the booming nationalised business is making, and the £25m plus value put on that business by the directors. Compensation could be £10m less than this and still leave the shares looking good, whatever the outcome. There may be some compensation news in March.

Continuing nervousness in the food sector attracted small selling to second-line stocks like Hilda's, which fell 6p to 224p. Hilda's which ended 4p lower at 158p, and Nurdin & Peacock which slipped 4p to 100p. Gloomy trading statements hit Allied Colloids to the tune of 12p to 69p, Howard Shuterlog, which dipped 7p to 59p. But both motor dealers Braid Group up 2p to 47p and Spencer Clark 4p to 35p drew strength from their respective statements.

Hopes of conversion soon lifted Alcan 9p per cent 1989-90 by 22p to 513p. Consolidated Gold Fields continued to be a good market on the strength of the metal price and currency uncertainty gaining 12p to 198p while De La Rue closed at 273p after the first day's trading in its split form.

The usual crop of shares to be bought from weekend comment included Harris Lebus, up 6p to 63p, with gains of 3p to 5p from Restmor at 139p, and Associated Engineering at 124p. Oils tended to soften with BP ending a couple of points lower at 808p and Shell 5p off to 510p. In the financial sector the

clearing banks attracted little interest and all ended with losses of 3p. Lloyds closed at 288p, Midland 388p, National Westminster 288p and Barclays 338p. A firm feature here was to be found in ANX Group which closed eight points better at 245p after news of a scrip. Properties tended to firm as the day progressed but shares which levels were Great Portland at 230p and Land Securities at 230p, both 4p off.

News of £2m worth of orders booked at the Furniture Show did little for Silentnight which ended 4p lower at 47p. Newman Industries eased a penny to 69p after news of two sales worth in total around £1m to cut bank indebtedness.

The purchase of an electrical engineering company through a share issue centred interest on Fairbairn Lawson. The shares rose 5p to 60p before easing back to close at 58p.

Despite news that Raybeck had reduced its 9.7 per cent stake in Leyzer to 4.2 per cent, Leyzer closed unchanged at 173p.

Stock jobbers, Akroyd & Smithers also ended unchanged at 232p. After the close the group announced that it is to restart dealings in gold shares later this year.

London Sumatra shares jumped 11p to 91p yesterday on speculation that Harris & Crossfield will be forced into an early bid for the outstanding 61 per cent of the equity following the recent raids in other companies in its empire. What sparked the rumour was the fact that the group, including McLeod Russell, has built its stake in Harcross to 11.9 per cent even though H & C is bidding for it. The group also paid more a share than Harris is offering.

Equity turnover on January 13 was £80.42m (14,636 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Shell, Allied Colloids, Beecham, EMI, CEC, Metal Box, Reed International, Henry Wigfall, JB, JB Eastwood, John Brown, International Timber and Liner Concrete.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Allied Colloids (1)	11,278(8.70)	2,362(2.08)	—	0.57(0.51)	3/4	—
Best & May (1)	2,061(1.2)	0,150(0.09)	—	0.37(2.22)	6/3	—
Brad Group (1)	2,620(2.5)	0,319(0.28)	—	0.99(0.88)	—	1,371(1.23)
Cray Elec (1)	4,514(0.7)	0,102(0.1)	—	0.10(1.49)	12/4	(-1.3)
J B Eastwood (1)	77,812(2.3)	3,004(4.7)	—	11.15(18.06)	17/3	(-3.8)
Evedale Bury (1)	9,818(4.1)	0,886(0.72)	—	18.84(15.38)	—	2,821(2.82)
Freeman's (1)	1,255(3.3)	0,272(3.37)	—	2.72(3.37)	23/3	3,871(3.45)
Howard Shuterlog (1)	1,731(1.34)	0,111(0.70)	—	2.03(4.4)	6/3	(-1.5)
Meggit Elgits (F)	4,583(3.7)	0,191(0.15)	—	2.03(1.81)	4/4	0,389(0.35)
Melody Mills (1)	3,302(2.6)	0,171(0.25)	—	4.8(6.9)	—	(-2.9)
Wellman Eng (1)	—	0,541(0.47)	—	1.51(1.04)	18/3	(-2.1)
Pitman (F)	12,051(11.39)	0,991(0.69)	—	—	—	—
Spencer Clark (F)	4,704(4.09)	0,301(0.31)	—	1.43(1.26)	2/4	2,392(2.14)
Restmor Grp (1)	3,441(2.77)	0,410(0.36)	—	0.82(0.82)	—	—
Wellman Eng (1)	—	0,541(0.47)	—	1.51(1.04)	18/3	(-2.1)

Dividends in this table are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. E Ringgits.

Bigger market share helps Braid leap 45 pc

By Ray Maughan

Free of the excess profits problem of 1976 and with the help of increased market penetration, Braid Group has offset the problem of product shortage and boosted pre-tax profits by 45 per cent to £915,000 in the year ended September 30.

The requirement of the Price Code forced this Chester-based Vauxhall distributor to cut prices in the previous year by £182,000, so the resultant rate of growth is less emphatic than it first appears. However, Braid has performed better than the chairman, Mr D. C. Bamford, indicated last August, when he forecast second-half profits at least equal to those of the October-March period. That would have given Braid around £800,000 at the pre-tax level and the consequent improvement appears to have been achieved.

What Braid and other distributors lacked and continue

to lack is an adequate supply of vehicles. And, while the buffer stocking discounts have ceased after the new franchise agreement, the problem of adequate inventory remains. It seems that Braid has succeeded by carrying out a greater share of the market than might be presumed by Vauxhall's 11 per cent penetration of the national car market.

The shares climbed 3p to 431p yesterday where the p/e of stated earnings is around 6. This compares with an exit p/e of 14 of Toyota distributor Pride & Clarke. But the prospects for the remaining independent groups must be limited to extent by which they can win market share from one another while the supply of product remains poor.

A final dividend of 1432p was announced for the year ended 1976/77, 1.89762p to 2.0874p per share where the yield is 4.8 per cent.

Milling rates at Barlow Rand drop sharply

By Desmond Quigley

Milling rates at Barlow Rand's grinding dropped substantially in the December quarter, compared with the previous three months.

As a result sold working profits fell from £8.06m to £7.35m. The mine produced 66,329 kilograms of uranium oxide but again there were no sales of uranium during the quarter with a result that there was a

working loss of £569,000. Net profit of the mine dropped from £5.21m in the September quarter to £4.49m.

The two marginal mines—East Rand Proprietary and Durban Roopeport Deep—reduced working losses, and after static assistance, East Rand made a net profit of £1.97m against £228,000, while Durban made a net profit of £771,000 against a loss of £674,000.

ANZ Bank cautious on interest rates cut

Downward influences on Australian interest rates seem likely to predominate this year, according to the Australia & New Zealand banking group chairman, Sir Ian McLennan.

However, continuation of balance of payments uncertainties and/or excessively slow growth in the money supply could limit the scope for significant reductions from present levels. Support measures by the authorities would probably be needed in the June quarter period of heavy tax payments, if there is no marked improvement in bank liquidity by end-March.

Sir Ian said that it was important that sufficient liquidity was available to ensure that competition for funds does not produce renewed escalation in interest rates.

But the banking group was optimistic that results in the current financial year would

show an improvement over those for the year ended September 30, Sir Ian said. Economic conditions were difficult, particularly in Australia and

New Zealand, but earnings so far this year had been satisfactory—Reuter.

Chase Manhattan

Fourth-quarter operating profit of Chase Manhattan Corporation before securities transactions was \$36.2m (about £19m) against \$25.7m in the corresponding period. After securities transactions it was \$37m.

Overseas net interest income was higher in the fourth quarter of 1977 than in the fourth quarter of 1976. This was due, of substantially increased

Strength of pound hits Colloids

By Victor Feistead

Its particular vulnerability to the strength or weakness of the pound in foreign exchange markets is illustrated by the latest half-time figures from Bradford-based Allied Colloids, the industrial chemicals group, which exports three-quarters of its production.

In the half-year to October 1, turnover was 29.5 per cent up at £11.7m. But pre-tax profits rose by less than half this—by only 21 per cent to £2.26m. On a pre-tax basis, margins contracted from 24 to about 21 per cent.

Shareholders however do benefit with the interim payment, gross, rising from 0.79p (adjusted) to 0.87p.

The market's reaction to the figures was severe—the shares fell by 12p to 70p. Allied's board explained that with such a high proportion of output being exported, profitability is being affected by the increasing strength of sterling. This, coupled with the depressed state of world trade, makes it very difficult for the directors to forecast the year's results. But, on their present information, profits are likely to be in line with the year's results.

Pre-tax profits for last year were nearly £5m, a record, and more than double the previous year. As Allied has been a growth stock for some while this marketing time in profit expansion is viewed with some concern by dealers. If the current year's result is about the same as last time, it will mean that the group's profits will actually be about 9 per cent lower than last year.

Egg prices crucial to Eastwood's fortune

By Bryan Appleyard

The egg price is now the key pointer to J. B. Eastwood's full-year figures.

Yesterday the company reported pre-tax profits down from £4.5m to just over £3m for the half-year to September 30 on sales up from £72.3m to £77.8m, and accompanied the figures with a cautious projection for the full year.

The position is that eggs, as usual, showed price strength up to Christmas and have since maintained that strength instead of falling off as they customarily do.

A 1p fall in the price of a dozen eggs can take £1.2m off Eastwood's trading profits in a full year, so the remaining months of this year are critical for the company.

• • • • •

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(continued on page 27)

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PERSONAL also
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RENTALS

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We do not claim to be the best

but we do claim to be the best

at what we do.

Our service is second to none.

Our prices are the lowest.

Our quality is the highest.

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Our results are the best.

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Our prices are the best.

Our quality is the best.

Our reputation is the best.

Our work is the best.

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